Metrobank, Merrill Lynch seen aiding MVP's PLDT bid

STORY ON PAGE B1

SHE LOVES YOU YEAH, YEAH, YEAH!

Rock 'n roll wedding for Paul, Heather

GLASLOUGH, Ireland—Pop legend Paul McCartney and former model Heather Mills were married on Tuesday in a rock 'n roll wedding at an Irish castle during

ROCK/A9

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Swiss court 'refreezes' Marcos crony deposits

By Donna S. Cueto

SCORE one for the government.

The High Court of Zurich has ordered a "temporary" freeze on the Swiss bank deposits of Marcos Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco and two other Filipinos, reversing the earlier ruling of a Zurich magistrate lifting the freeze on the assets.

SWISS/A17

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
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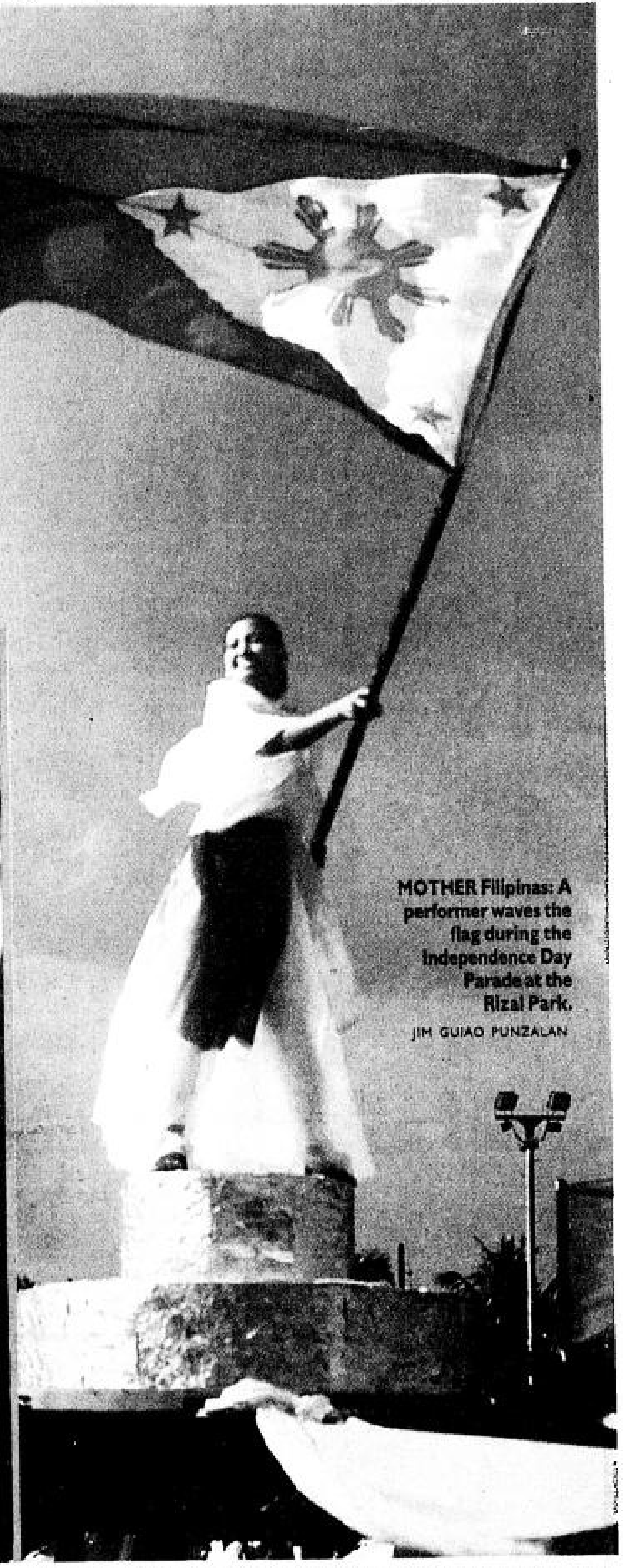
We could all be heroes like Debbie–GMA



MOTHER Filipinas: A performer waves the flag during the Independence Day Parade at the Rizal Park.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

'RP must focus on war on terrorism, poverty'

By Carlito Pablo and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

FILIPINOS, whether farmer, street sweeper, police officer on the beat, or factory worker, could all be heroes and do their share in nation building, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday.

"I hope every Filipino will realize that all of us have an obligation to care for our country," the President said in an afternoon speech at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila, marking the country's 104th Independence Day.

She said this was the meaning of "Bayan ko, sagot ko (My country, my responsibility)," the theme of this year's celebration.

The President also said that the country was faced with two major challenges today—defeating terrorism and ending poverty—and that all citizens were being called to do their part.

She said Independence Day was "not only for great acts of courage." But she made special mention of two women whose acts of courage and honesty, she said, were proof that everyone could be heroes—the late nurse Ediborah "Debbie" Yap of Basilan and public school teacher Marilyn Bonguiat of Bicol.

The first chose to stay a captive of the Abu Sayyaf to tend to her fellow hostages Martin and Gracia Burnham, and the sec-

WE/A16

PRESIDENT Macapagal raises the flag in Lamitan, Basilan, to start the nationwide Independence Day celebrations. Behind her are Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu.
VAL HANDUMON

Police stop militant groups' 'celebrations'

By Philip C. Tubeza,
Agnes E. Donato
and Gerald G. Lacuarta

MILITANT groups yesterday tried to hold their own Independence Day "celebrations" in Manila but hundreds of anti-riot policemen blocked their way to their favorite protest grounds in front of the US Embassy.

The police even arrested seven militants, four of them children, for trying to hold a mock flag-raising ceremony near the Rizal Monument at the Luneta Park.

"This is unjustifiable. This would have been understandable if it happened during Ramos' time or Erap's (administration). We installed her (President Macapagal-Arroyo) to power," said Teodoro Casiño, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan).

"The police could not even give us an explanation. They know us and we are not violent," Casiño said.

More than 2,000 policemen were deployed at the vicinity of the Luneta grandstand, site of the government's Independence Day celebrations.

Besides Manila lawmen, 800 augmentation policemen from the four other metro police districts and around 100 from the National Capital Region Police Office were deployed near Luneta.

"We did not expect that they were going to disperse us since

POLICE/A16

US troops don't bother Basilan folk

LAMITAN, Basilan—As a carload of US soldiers passed by, village leader Edilberto Gomez, 69, reflected on the irony of American troops being in the town during Independence Day. He said it didn't bother them.

"We are free. The Americans are here building roads and digging deep wells," Gomez said. "They are not invading. They are helping us."

Besides repairing roads and digging wells, about 1,000 US military personnel are training and advising Filipino soldiers to crush Abu Sayyaf bandits who until June 7 held hostage two American missionaries and a Filipino nurse.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's presence in Lamitan also made the town's Independence Day celebrations different from previous years.

In a symbolic gesture to reclaim this town from the Abu Sayyaf, the President led the country in celebrating its 104th independence anniversary by raising the national flag at the Lamitan municipal hall.

On the same day last year, the bandits presented the President with their Independence Day gift—the beheading of hostage Guillermo Sobero, a tourist from Corona, California, who was kidnapped along with US missionaries Martin and Gracia Burnham at Palawan's Dos Palmas Resort on May 27 last year.

After spending the night in Lamitan, Ms Macapagal became the first Philippine President to raise the flag in the town

US/A9

FLYING COLORS
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN
A squadron of policemen holds high the flags as they pass the Quirino Grandstand during the Independence Day parade at the Rizal Park.

Plays, songs hail Cordillera heroes

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Mateo Cariño was the Ibaloi herdsman whose legal battle reached the US Supreme Court at the turn of the 20th century, resulting in the first-ever case that recognized ancestral lands in the Philippines.

But Linda Grace Cariño's centennial screenplay, "Mateo Cariño," returns quickly and vividly into her great-great-grandfather's irreverence for Spanish or American colonial laws. Cariño, after all, was also a member of the secret society known as the Katipunan.

The Cariño screenplay is one of many entertaining attempts to bring the little known and long-forgotten stories about Katipuneros in the Cordillera to life.

PLAYS/A17

Rare Filipiniana in Chicago

By Ed Malaya

(Editor's note: Malaya is a lawyer and consul at the Philippine Consulate in San Francisco. He was previously based in Chicago.)

CHICAGO—Across the tree-lined Bughouse Square, Chicago's traditional free speech forum, stands a stately Romanesque building that houses one of America's finest humanities libraries.

In the stacks and vaults of Newberry Library are some of the world's rarest books, maps and manuscripts, including cartographic maps of America's first European settlements and the 1600 libretto of Jacopo Peri's "Euridice," the first opera ever performed.

A casual visitor would not suspect a Philippine connection were it not for a bust of Jose Rizal that adorns the Special Collections reading room on the fourth floor.

Newberry's rich collection of Filipiniana from the 15th to the 19th century rivals those at the Library of Congress in Washing-

RARE/A4

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MABUTI NAMAN!

Second FRONT PAGE

With Abalos, peace descends on Comelec

By Christine O. Avendaño

LESS than a week after the appointment of a new chairman, peace seems to have descended on the Commission on Elections, for now.

New Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos observed that the camp of Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco— which was continually at odds with the faction of ex-chair Alfredo Benipayo—was in a cooperative mood since he came aboard on Monday.

Abalos was describing his first few days in office to House Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzales at the vin d' honneur in Malacañang yesterday on the occasion of Philippine Independence Day.

"I feel okay because they (Tancangco group) are showing signs of cooperating," Gonzales quoted Abalos as telling him.

In a telephone interview, the deputy speaker said it appears there has been a "cessation of hostilities" at the Comelec and this was "for the good of everyone."

ABALOS

'Good move'

Gonzales said President Macapagal-Arroyo's appointment of Abalos was a "good move," especially with barangay and youth elections set for next month—events which, he noted, will be the "curtain raiser for the 2004 presidential elections."

The President, Gonzales said, must have realized that re-appointing Benipayo would see "no end to the problems at the Comelec . . . and the public would be the loser."

"It also appeared that Benipayo himself had expressed the desire not to be re-appointed anymore," Gonzales said.

Gonzales, however, said Abalos' early assessment of the situation at the Comelec was not good enough reason for congressmen to withdraw the impeachment complaint they are planning to endorse against Tancangco.

The complaint is being prepared by several non-governmental groups led by the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel).

"If we do this (withdraw the complaint), it would appear impeachment was threatened so she (Tancangco) would toe the line under Benipayo," said Gonzales, who is among 62 congressmen who have signed a resolution endorsing the impeachment complaint against Tancangco. The resolution needs 77 signatures to take effect and be forwarded to the Senate.

"I think the impeachment complaint should (be allowed to) follow its course," Gonzales said.

Namfrel is set to file its impeachment complaint against Tancangco next month, after Congress reopens on July 22.

The President did not renew Benipayo's appointment after his confirmation consistently failed to get the nod of the Commission on Appointments. The CA observed that Benipayo's relations with the Tancangco faction was hindering Comelec operations, after the Estrada-appointed group had consistently opposed Benipayo's directives.

Tancangco faces impeachment after several congressmen questioned her role in the granting of a supply contract to a group linked to Estrada and for failing to implement a computerized vote count in time for last year's elections.

Bridging the rift

At the vin d'honneur, Abalos said his priority is to unite the commissioners and bridge the rift between the Macapagal and Estrada appointees.

He said the Estrada appointees—Tancangco, Ralph Lantion, Mehol Sadain and Rufino Javier—are throwing a "surprise" welcome party for him on Saturday at Javier's house.

When asked who was his role model at his new post, Abalos said he would try to emulate Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide, who is a former Comelec chairman.

Davide was the "best (Comelec) chairman there ever was," he said.

He said he also admires Davide's predecessor, Ramon Felipe Jr.

Abalos said Davide and Felipe were politicians like himself, yet they were highly regarded during their stints at the poll body, by way of belying criticism about his impartiality at his new post since he was an active official of the administration Lakas party.

"For me, political savvy could be a plus," added Abalos. ***With Dona Z. Pazzibugan***

MILF vs MNLF vs AFP: 11 killed in 3-way clash

COTABATO CITY—At least 11 people, including two soldiers, were killed as a three-way clash between two armed groups and Army troops entered its second day yesterday in Datu Piang, Maguindanao province.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said five soldiers were wounded in the encounter at Barangay Kitango.

Ando said the three-way clash started after troops were sent on Tuesday to pacify warring groups belonging to the rebel Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front.

Ando said the military had to act after it was learned that the groups—the MILF led by a Commander Mamalapat Tamano and the MNLF group headed by a Commander Nas—had started terrorizing civilians.

Some 1,500 civilians are reported to have fled the village to escape the fighting.

Third side

Brig. Gen. Generoso Senga, the newly installed 6th ID commander, immediately sent troops to restore order.

However, as soldiers entered the besieged village, some of the armed men started firing at them, triggering the three-way clash.

The MILF group had stopped fighting yesterday but the MNLF was still exchanging fire with soldiers as of press time.

Ando said the Army has received reports that the Nas group had forged an alliance with the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group.

Bai Saphia Uy, chair of Barangay Kitango, said a land dispute may have triggered the clash between the followers of the commanders.

Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema, the MNLF secretary general, said the situation would not have gone out of control had the Army stayed out of the fighting.

He said MNLF officials had been working with local leaders to patch up the quarrel.

'Under fire'

"Our forces in MNLF communities were forced to fight back since they were under fire," he said.

Sema also denounced the Army's intrusion into an MNLF area without prior coordination.

The MILF meanwhile claimed that none of its members were involved in the Datu Piang clash.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said the Nas group was identified with Maguindanao Governor Ampatuan.

"One of the groups belonged to the MNLF, while the other one was identified with Governor Ampatuan, not MILF members," Kabalu said.

Secret camps

In Zamboanga City, a senior MILF leader has claimed that some 50,000 MILF fighters were in training in secret camps in Mindanao despite peace talks with the government.

The MILF has also resumed manufacturing firearms, three years after being flushed out of their camps in central Mindanao, MILF regional chief UStadz Shariff Jullabi said.

One out of every 10 MILF rebel was now armed with rocket-propelled grenade launchers, Jullabi said, as he vowed that they would soon be returning to their camps.

The MILF signed a ceasefire pact with Manila last year while negotiating a Malaysian-brokered peace accord with the government.

But the peace talks only gave the MILF "time to rebuild and consolidate our forces," Jullabi said, stressing the military was doing the same thing.

"It's a war, so make strategies," Jullabi said.

Military buildup

Kabalu, who said the MILF leadership was also concerned about the massive military buildup in the south to round up the remnants of the smaller Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang, would not comment on Julabbi's statement.

"It is clear to us that the target is the Abu Sayyaf. But we are worried and should the (armed forces) refuse to honor the ceasefire, there will be a spillover," of violence, Kabalu warned.

"We are on a defensive position, there is an arrangement made by the coordinating committees, but there is also the possibility of hostilities," he said. ***Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with reports from Martin P. Marfil and AFP***

Solons back Bunye for top MMDA post

By Christine O. Avendaño

IF House Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez and several congressmen had their way, former Muntinlupa Rep. Ignacio Bunye would be the new chairman of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

Bunye and former Marikina mayor Bayani Fernando are believed to be the frontrunners for the post recently vacated by Benjamin Abalos, who was appointed Commission on Elections chair by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Gonzalez told the INQUIRER at the vin d'honneur reception at Malacañang yesterday that Bunye was the personal choice of some 20 congressmen he had talked to.

He said he was even asked by Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo to draft a resolution expressing the House's support for Bunye to succeed Abalos.

BUNYE

The congressmen were keen on Bunye, Gonzalez said, because he was a representative in the 11th Congress and had held the top MMDA post when he was Muntinlupa mayor.

"He (Bunye) has a better feel for the position," Gonzalez said in a phone interview.

"So, in a talk with congressmen, and they're quite a number, they said they will support a resolution for Bunye," he added.

Gonzales said he learned from presidential advisers Joey Rufino and Gabriel Claudio that Ms Macapagal had yet to decide on Abalos' successor at the MMDA.

Among the congressmen he had talked to, Gonzalez said, were Saludo, Oscar Rodriguez, Willie Villarama and Monico Puentevella.

But, Gonzalez added, before the congressmen draw up the resolution, he would seek the approval of Speaker Jose de Venecia to the plan.

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Quezon priest linked to sex scandal, altar boy's slay

By Armand N. Nocum

A RANKING Church official in Gumaca, Quezon, is being accused not just of sexual misconduct but also of allegedly killing his purported lover, a 15-year-old altar boy.

Bishop Emilio Z. Marquez, the head of the Gumaca diocese, quickly denied the accusations against Msgr. Candido Umali, who was transferred to another parish following the incident.

Umali was accused by another altar boy and a parishioner of the San Vicente parish in barangay San Vicente in Gumaca of allegedly carrying on an affair with Salvador de la Fuente who was found strangled in his bed at the church on Dec. 23, 2001.

The altar boy, Alvin Dequito, has been charged with the murder of De la Fuente.

Dequito told police that he saw the 61-year-old Umali and the parish cook, Ireneo de Jesus, talking with the slain boy before his death.

Dequito and a 19-year-old farmer have accused Umali of forcing them to have oral sex with him several times.

But Bishop Marquez, in a statement sent to reporters, said there was no truth to the charges.

He said a police report prepared by SPO4 Danilo Ramirez Driz of the Gumaca police had cleared Umali of the charges.

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Naia 3 90% done

By N. Bordadora

JUST plug it in and all systems are go at the controversial new Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Despite the controversy and alleged anomalies attending the construction of the terminal, the Philippine Export Zone Authority released on Tuesday the certificate of electrical inspection for the sprawling $500-million air terminal.

This means the general construction of the building is complete and permanent electric power can now be installed.

"Only the finishing touches remain to be applied to the building," said Moises Tolentino, vice president and spokesperson of Philippine International Air Terminals Co., managers of the terminal.

Officials of Piatco and Takenaka Corp., general contractor for the project, received the certificate of inspection from Peza.

"The building is 90 percent complete," Tolentino said.

The terminal is scheduled to open on Nov. 26.

Sitting on a 65-hectare site, Naia 3 is capable of handling 13 million passengers annually.

It will have 140 check-in counters, 118 immigration counters and nine moving walkways and a 20,000-square-meter shopping complex.

Its construction has been attended by allegations of corruption and other irregularities on the part of contractors, subcontractors and government and business officials, both Filipino and foreign.

Braganza orders probe of Dante, insists DAR record is 'rock solid'

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SAN FERNANDO CITY—There are no sacred cows for the Department of Agrarian Reform, not even Bernabe Buscayno, alias Kumander Dante.

Eager to prove this, Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza ordered yesterday an investigation of alleged irregularities surrounding 100 hectares of land in Tarlac City owned by two organizations formed by Buscayno, founder and former commander of the New People's Army.

Braganza's order came on the heels of INQUIRER's three-part special report on the alleged mess. "We will treat this case the same way we deal with similar disputes," he told the INQUIRER by telephone from a DAR trade exhibit at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

Braganza said he had formed a committee headed by Undersecretary Gil delos Reyes to look into the displacement of 16 tenants in Barangays Balanti and Armenia following the acquisition of their land by Buscayno's People's Livelihood Foundation Inc. in 1990, and Tarlac Integrated Livelihood Cooperative in 1992.

One of the displaced farmers, Pedro Mendoza, 76, had called attention to what he said was Buscayno's gains from the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Attorney-in-fact

Buscayno had acted as attorney-in-fact for the original landowners.

The DAR chief also challenged "doubting" NGO leaders to check records of land distribution with the Land Registration Authority, before they question President Macapagal-Arroyo's implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

Braganza said the NGOs were "either lying or misinformed" when they recently criticized the President's claim that her administration recorded the biggest yearly accomplishment in land distribution under CARP.

"Our records are rock solid," Braganza said. "We have logged the biggest accomplishment so far in the distribution of private agricultural lands."

Braganza explained that the previous administration's land distribution might look better, but only because it included public lands which were easier to distribute, since they were non-compensable and therefore required no budget.

The critical farmers' groups should congratulate the President instead, Braganza said, for targeting 100,000 hectares of private agricultural lands for distribution, "the highest in the history of CARP."

Usual detractors

He noted that the NGOs now hitting President Macapagal were the same groups that denounced the previous DAR administrations for distributing public lands.

"Now that we're going after private lands, they are still complaining," the DAR chief said. In fact, he stressed, the DAR could have distributed more private agricultural lands had Congress allotted the department a bigger budget.

He lamented that Congress had consistently slashed the budget for land acquisition and distribution. This year, Braganza said, the budget was slashed by as much as P1 billion.

For 2001, Braganza reported that DAR distributed 104,261 hectares of agricultural land to 72,188 agrarian reform beneficiaries. This, he said, represented an accomplishment rate of 103 percent based on the target, and brought to 3.21 million hectares the total area of agricultural lands distributed under CARP since 1972.

Braganza explained that this performance was a result of Task Force Salinlupa, which he created to accelerate land transfer. Specifically, it installed the Land Tenure Improvement Monitoring System (LTIMON) to follow up the status of landholdings targeted for distribution.

Over-achiever

"Almost all the regions, even the previous year's non-performers, exceeded their targets," Braganza said. He cited Region VI (Negros), which had ranked third with 12,420 hectares distributed in his first year in office.

The other topnotchers included Region XII with 15,570 hectares, Region VIII with 13,396, and Region XI with 10,838. Region V (Bicol), classified as a "problematic region," ranked fifth with 9,908.

Braganza noted that even Negros Occidental, considered the "last bastion of feudalism" in the country, delivered with 7,416 hectares.

Sultan Kudarat came in next with 7,147; then Isabela, 6,840; Leyte, 5,879; Cotabato, 4,930; and Negros Oriental, 3,938.

Braganza commended his field personnel in the Visayas for the successful installation of some 1,800 agrarian reform beneficiaries all over the country.

"These beneficiaries were longtime holders of Emancipation Patents and Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs) but could not take actual possession of the land due to resisting landowners' legal maneuvers of resisting landowners," Braganza explained.

Oops! Wrong baby

By Ayan C. Mellejor
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—On the morning of April 14, Baby Frederick was lying alone in a cot at the nursery of the Davao Medical Center waiting to be taken to his mother.

He was not to know that his mother Marites was nursing another baby in a recovery room of the maternity ward, an excited Frederick Sr. by her side as the new parents fairly exulted over their "firstborn."

The first known case of baby-switching in the state-run hospital started at about 4:30 a.m. of April 14.

Frederick, a media practitioner, had rushed his wife, who had been feeling labor pains, to the hospital.

As Marites was being prepared for a caesarian operation, doctors inside the delivery room were busy trying to revive a woman who had given birth to a healthy baby boy.

The mother died but her son survived.

At about 6 a.m., a nurse handed Frederick a baby boy. The nurse said it was his son.

Frederick said the baby's nametag indicated that he had been born at 5:49 a.m.

In the midst of his excitement, Frederick said he wondered why Marites had not been brought out of the operating room with the baby.

He inquired from one of the security guards who assured him that his wife was all right. He felt relieved.

At about 8 a.m., Marites was finally transferred to the recovery room where she was reunited with Frederick and what they thought was their baby.

She proceeded to nurse the baby but the newborn refused to feed.

For several hours she attempted to feed the baby but he kept on struggling to free himself.

While the couple fretted and worried, a nurse suddenly appeared and said she was taking the baby. The nurse did not offer to explain why.

After about an hour, the same nurse came back with another baby and told the couple: "This is your real baby."

Dr. Gerardo Cunanan, the hospital director, later apologized to the couple. He explained to Frederick that there had been a mistake, and that their baby had been mistakenly switched with another.

It turned out that the first baby belonged to the mother who had given birth in the delivery room just before Marites and who had died.

"Maybe that was the reason why the baby would not feed (from Marites)," Frederick said.

Frederick said he brought the incident to the media's attention so it would not happen again.

(Editor's note: The names of the baby and those of his parents have been changed to protect their identities.)

Striking RP nurses in LA suspended

By Norman Bordadora

FOR DEMANDING improved patient care, competitive pay, and benefits, 24 Filipino-American registered nurses and healthcare workers were indefinitely suspended by a hospital in Los Angeles, California.

Reports reaching the Department of Foreign Affairs showed that the Queen of Angels-Hollywood suspended the workers after they staged a three-day walkout that started May 24, following a deadlock in negotiations.

The nurses and caregivers were reportedly members of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), which was still trying to resolve the dispute with the hospital management, according to the DFA.

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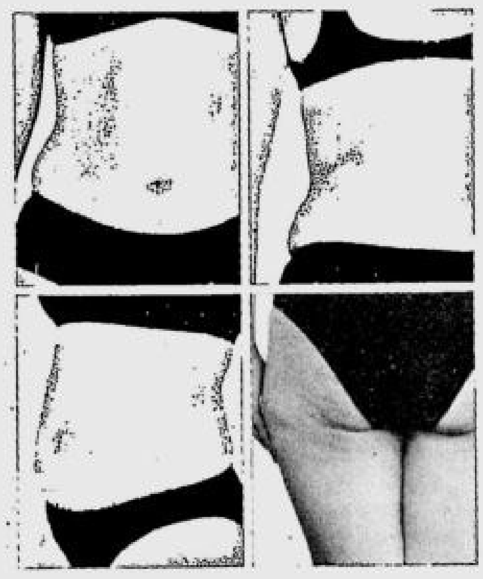

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Thursday, June 13, 2002
10th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **1 K 18:41-46**
Gospel: **Mt 5:20-26**

Jesus said to the crowds, "I tell you, then, that if you are not righteous in a much broader way than the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees, you cannot enter the kingdom of heaven.

You have heard that it was said to our people in the past: *Do not commit murder; anyone who does kill will have to face trial.* But now I tell you: whoever gets angry with a brother or sister will have to face trial. Whoever insults a brother or sister deserves to be brought before the council; whoever humiliates a brother or sister deserves to be thrown into the fire of hell. So, if you are about to offer your gift at the altar and you remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with him, and then come back and offer your gift to God.

Don't forget this: be reconciled with your opponent quickly when you are together on the way to court. Otherwise he will turn you over to the judge, who will hand you over to the police, who will put you in jail. There you will stay, until you have paid the last penny."

Commentary

"You have heard . . . , but I tell you . . . " This formula will be repeated six times, for Jesus spoke with authority. (Mt 7:29) The law of Christ, the imitation of God the Father (Mt 5:48)—this is the great innovation—is a call for purification of the heart. It goes deeper than just checking our actions, it reaches to the realm of our intentions and desires. Stressing the need for reconciliation among people, the gospel tells us that our relationship with God (our offerings to God and our prayer in general) must begin always in the community. If we are not reconciled with our brothers and sisters, whatever we offer to God will never reach God, who is Parent of all. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the communitarian expression of our faith in God's forgiveness and love.

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INDEPENDENCE DAY

Overseas Filipinos wave flag on the Web

By Joey G. Alarilla
INQ7.net

THEY might be far away from home, but Filipinos working and living overseas are just as passionate in celebrating Philippine independence. And the Internet is breaking down geographical barriers by allowing them to celebrate this event as a nation.

As the country celebrated the 104th anniversary of Philippine independence, Filipino communities in the United States and other countries were holding their own celebrations through an array of cultural activities.

The Filipino community in New York went out in full force during the Philippine Independence Grand Parade on June 2. The parade not only showed the solidarity of the Filipino-American community but also the city's successful rebirth from the ashes of the 9-11 tragedy.

The traditional street fair and cultural show, however, have been canceled.

The Philippine Independence Ball was held in May, near the site of the World Trade Center.

"We wanted to help rebuild New York City, that's why we held our ball there," Lee Vargas, overall chair of the Philippine Independence Day Committee 2002, told INQ7.net in an e-mail.

To help bring together Filipino communities across the Philippines and throughout the world, INQ7.net has launched the Global Nation online special at www.inq7.net/specialfeatures/id2002/.

The mini-website also serves as the springboard for Filipinos Abroad, a new regular INQ7.net section catering to the overseas Filipino community.

INQ7 Interactive Inc. is the joint-venture online company of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc. and GMA Network Inc.

Activities of several Philippine consulates are posted in the Global Nation's Main Events section. There are also photos in the Snapshots gallery.

In Hawaii, the Filipino Community (FilCom) Center is this year's venue for the Philippine Independence Day celebration. The center aims to provide social, economic, educational and cultural services to the Fil-Am community in Hawaii and to perpetuate and nurture Filipino culture, tradition and values.

Hawaii, with its large Filipino and Fil-Am community, showcases Filipino political and socioeconomic influence in the United States. Hawaii Gov. Benjamin J. Cayetano, who is serving his second term, has the distinction of being the highest elective American official of Filipino ancestry.

Filipinos overseas contribute greatly to the Philippine economy, helping keep the country afloat even during the worst crises.

According to a report from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, OFW dollar remittances have increased by 13.5 percent in the first two months of the year—from $933 million during the first two months last year to $1.059 billion this year.

As a tribute to these dedicated men and women, Global Nation is featuring them in the OFW Spotlight section. OFWs can send their photos, profiles and brief essays and get a chance to share their thoughts with a global audience.

One of the OFWs featured in this section, Florencio Kabigting Jr., shared his "birthday wish" for the Philippines.

"Happy 104th birthday, Philippines! I can only wish you a better quality of life, world-class nationhood and a nation free from poverty, corruption, and ignorance. Your OFW sons and daughters are beside you as you find your rightful place among nations," he said.

Kabigting is a human resource consultant for Pricewaterhouse-Coopers GHRS in Japan.

Global Nation and Filipinos Abroad also offer a wealth of online resources for the overseas Filipino community. Apart from news, features, columns and links to useful government and nongovernment sites, the online special has sections addressing concerns such as absentee voting, money remittance and Philippine tourism.

The site also offers interactive services, allowing visitors to voice their thoughts in the online forums, take part in the Filipino Global Survey or vote on relevant issues in the online poll.

$14-M Filipino center inaugurated

HONOLULU—Oahu's $14.2-million Filipino Community Center was launched with a blessing and ceremony that coincided with the celebration of Philippine Independence Day.

"The launching of the Filipino Community Center is more than the construction of a building," said Merlin Magallona, the Philippines' undersecretary of foreign affairs. "You have put together a structure of the Filipino dream."

The structure, located near the Oahu Sugar Mill and Hans L'Orange Park in Waipahu, is being touted as the largest such center of its kind outside the Philippines.

Magallona joined local leaders including Lt. Gov. Mazie Hirono, Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris and members of the legislature to dedicate the center and celebrate with traditional Filipino music and dance.

Children from the Filipiniana Dance Troupe performed a "putong," or welcome dance, before presenting community leaders and lawmakers with leis. Officials also unveiled a statue of Philippine national hero Jose Rizal, whose writings are credited with inspiring the revolution that led to the country's declaration of independence from Spain on June 12, 1898.

Magallona told a crowd of about 200 people that the work of Hawaii's Filipino community in building the center should serve as an example to promote peace.

"You have put together, in enduring form, a monument to multicultural harmony," he said.

The community center's opening completes a 10-year effort by architects, engineers, businessmen and volunteers who raised much of the money through local fund-raising efforts, but also received sizable corporate donations, including $3 million from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.

According to 2000 census figures, Hawaii's 170,635 Filipinos make up about 14 percent of the state population. But community leaders said the center would benefit all of Hawaii's immigrants.

In Sydney, Australia, the Filipino community celebrated Independence Day with a show of people power at the Philippine House to demand the retention of Consul General Libran Cabactulan.

Manny Villon, president of the Filipino Community Center, said it would be unfair to recall Cabactulan this month because of his important projects, including a tourism and trade exhibition scheduled in September.

"We are asking Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona not to recall Cabactulan until December," Villon said. ***Reports from AP, Oscar R. Landicho***

Rare Filipiniana in Chicago library

From page A1

ton and the religious archives in Valladolid and Seville, Spain.

Extremely rich is the collection that the early Filipinists Emma Helen Blair and James Alexander Robertson based their monumental 55-volume "The Philippine Islands, 1493–1898" mainly on Newberry's materials. The series was published in Cleveland, Ohio, from 1903 to 1909.

Robertson was the librarian of the Philippine National Library, from 1912 to 1916. Blair and Robertson's opus remains a standard reference to this day, and is now available in CD-ROM format.

Beyond the circle of Filipino historians, not many these days are aware of Newberry's Filipiniana resources.

"The last serious study on the collection may have been two years ago, although we have one or two visitors every now and then," said Robert W. Karrow Jr., curator of Special Collections.

On a recent visit by cultural figures, Newberry laid out some of its very best from its Filipiniana collection. These included Damian Domingo's watercolors of Filipino costumes circa 1825-1830, Velarde's 1734 map of "Las Islas Filipinas," Rizal's 1884 diary as a medical student in Madrid and an 1814 petition to the Spanish Crown from *ciudadanos Espanioles Filipinos* protesting oppression by *peninsulares Espanioles*.

"These collections take on added significance as many of our archival materials were lost during the Liberation of Manila," said Estrella Alamar, co-author of "The Filipinos in Chicago" and head of the Filipino-American Historical Society of Chicago.

Ayer's passion

Newberry's Filipiniana collection traces its origin to Edward Everett Ayer (1841–1927), a Chicago businessman prominent in the lumber trade but with little formal education.

Intrigued by the history of the early contacts between Indians and American white settlers, he gathered a sizable library on the subject. As his interest expanded to other fields, so did the objects of his collection.

When news of US Adm. George Dewey's victory over the Spanish flotilla in Manila Bay fanned across America, Ayer asked book agents in Spain and France to search for materials on the Philippines. He bought judiciously.

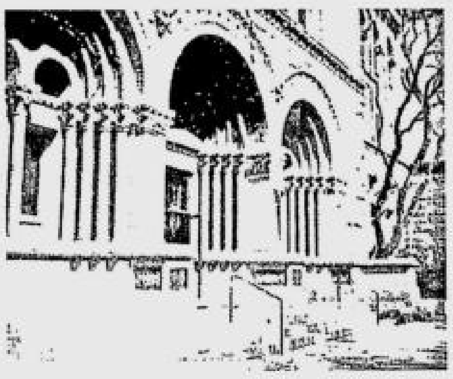
When Chicago architect Daniel Burnham went to Manila in 1904 on commission to draw the master plans for Manila and Baguio, Ayer went along with him. Manila's seafront bears resemblance to Chicago's lakeshore, due to Burnham's plans.

Upon his return to America, Ayer brought back not only rare books and manuscripts but also pieces of *lantaka*, *kampilan* and assorted Muslim weaponry. The latter are now part of the Philippine ethnographic artifacts at Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History.

When Ayer passed away, his Filipiniana collection totaled nearly 5,000 manuscripts, printed books, maps and photographs. He had these and 89,000 other items on various subjects bequeathed in 1911 to Newberry for the enjoyment of future generations.

The centerpieces of his collection consisted of about 370 manuscripts, covering a total of 7,000 pages. These are letters, journals, diaries, *testimonios*, *expedientes* and public records.

Its nucleus came from the purchase in 1900 of a substantial portion of the Barcelona library of the Compaña de Tabacos de Filipinas.


THE ROMANESQUE façade of Newberry Library on Walton Street, Chicago.

There are also 3,000 early printed materials, a third of which are in linguistics, notably early *dictionarios*, grammar books and novena written in the country's various dialects.

Some 1,500 postcards and photographs taken between 1900 and 1910, mostly of Filipinos in various poses and costumes, completed the collection.

"There is so much Filipiniana crying to be read and written up," noted Reynaldo Gamboa Alejandro, a Manila-born, New York-based author.

Conserving for posterity

The Newberry staff is aware of the historic and literary value of the library's collection.

The staff takes extra care in safeguarding not only the Ayers Collection but also the equally valuable Greenlee, Graff and Wing Collections, all named after their avid collector-donors.

Since its inception, Newberry has continually updated and augmented its Filipiniana materials. Three catalogues have been published.

Doris Varner Welsh compiled the "Checklist of Philippine Linguistics" in 1950. Paul Nietz of Loyola University published in 1956 the "Calendar of Philippine Documents in the Ayer's Collection of the Newberry Library." "A Catalogue of Printed Materials relating to the Philippines Islands, 1519-1900" by Welsh followed in 1959.

But interest on the library's Filipiniana collection waned in recent decades, largely forsaken and unheralded, except for a few brave souls, like historian and INQUIRER columnist Ambeth Ocampo who visited in late 2000.

The library's acquisition of new materials largely stopped.

This may be due to the diminished interest on Philippine matters in American academic and intellectual circles with the end of American colonial presence in the Philippines.

There is, at present, a growing number of Asian studies programs in local campuses, but nowhere near the frenetic focus on the Philippines that once flourished in the University of Chicago and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, among others.

There is also the unfamiliarity with the Spanish language on which most of the materials are written.

Rekindling interest

Filipino-American community groups recently teamed up with Newberry to revive interest on Ayer's Filipiniana. The Philippine Consulate in Chicago donated 30 books, including Zaide's 12-volume series "Documentary Sources of Philippine History" and Reader's Digest's 10-volume "Kasaysayan: The Story of the Filipino People."

Local students and academic faculties are being encouraged to use the collection. Access by researchers, including those in the Philippines and elsewhere, is easier with the increasing number of Newberry's collections available in its online catalogue at www.newberry.org.

The Blair and Robertson series, which have been cited for its often awkward and abridged translation of original Spanish documents, await scholars who wish to correct the linguistic distortions. They will also be delighted to find an abundance of materials that have not been fully examined.

Ayer's Filipiniana collection served the Filipino nation well in documenting and explaining its past and present. It still has lots to offer.

CURATOR Bob Karrow (leftmost) presents Damian Domingo's watercolors of Philippine costumes circa 1825 and Velarde's 1734 map of "las Islas Filipinas" to Consul Ed Malaya, Estrella Alamar of the Filipino American Historical Society of Chicago Museum, Consulate Cultural Officer Eleanor Belgica and Ed Soler of Ad Infinitum Gallery.

Lacson aide cleared in kidnap

By Michael Lim Ubac

FOR WANT of evidence, the Department of Justice has cleared a former aide of Sen. Panfilo Lacson on charges he was behind the disappearance of a Chinese businessman in Quezon City two years ago.

State Prosecutor Pablo Formaran III exonerated police Chief Insp. Ceasar Zafiro L. Tannagan on May 28 in the kidnapping and disappearance of Angelito Sy Mendoza, owner of Strategy Marketing Corp., who had doubled as a consultant and Chinese interpreter of the Philippine National Police Narcotics Group.

Mere suspicion, said Formaran, was not enough to indict Tannagan as this "would set a bad precedent."

"There ought to be clear and concrete evidence showing that respondent had deprived the victim of his liberty," he added.

Dismissal of the charges was recommended by Assistant Chief State Prosecutor Nilo Mariano and approved by Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño on June 10.

Tannagan was a member of the disbanded Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) under then police Director General Panfilo Lacson.

In its seven-page resolution, the justice department said that except for the fact that Tannagan was the last person seen with Mendoza, "there is no scintilla of evidence to show how, where and in what manner the respondent deprived Mendoza of his liberty."

National Bureau of Investigation agents learned that Mendoza had met with Tannagan on May 12 at the SM mall on West Avenue, Quezon City.

Tannagan reportedly wanted to hire Mendoza as a Chinese interpreter for the PAOCTF.

Smear job vs 2 judges hit

THE CLERK of court of the Muntinlupa regional trial court has dismissed as "wild" media reports that two judges handling the celebrated civil case between a computer school and its former top executive, were facing administrative charges.

Luis Bucayon II, clerk of court of RTC branch 256, said reports that Judges Alberto Lerma and Norma Perello were facing charges for issuing ex-parte writs of attachment on undetermined charges were not true.

A group of Muntinlupa lawyers were said to have also taken up the cudgels for the two judges, saying "Lerma and Perello were two of the most respected judges in Muntinlupa."

They said the two were not facing any administrative charges before the Supreme Court. Nor were they suspended; in fact, "they are performing their duties and going to work everyday."

The media reports said the judges received were subject of complaints for re-issuing ex-parte writs of attachment on undetermined damages. However, the lawyers said that exparte writs of attachment were allowed under the revised rules of civil procedures as long as the requirements of the law are met, including the filing of a surety bond.

Perello and Lerma had issued two writs of attachment against a health care institute sued by the AMA Group of Companies.

Agnes Enguito Abad, president of Access Professional Nursing Care Center and the Asian Institute of Health Care, and her husband, Manuel Abad, former executive vice president of the AMA Group, are facing charges of unfair competition and damages.

10,000 ask Comelec for gun ban exemptions

AROUND 10,000 applications for gun ban exemption have flooded the Commission on Elections two weeks into the election period.

Comelec Commissioner Ralph Lantion said, however, that he has approved only around 1,300 of the applications as of Monday, adding that he wants to limit the firearms during the period.

Lantion said that around 60 percent to 70 percent of the applications were from the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

He said the security personnel of many politicians and even media personalities have sought exemption from the gun ban, which will be effective from May 31 to July 31.

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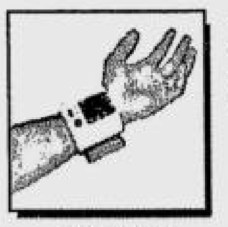

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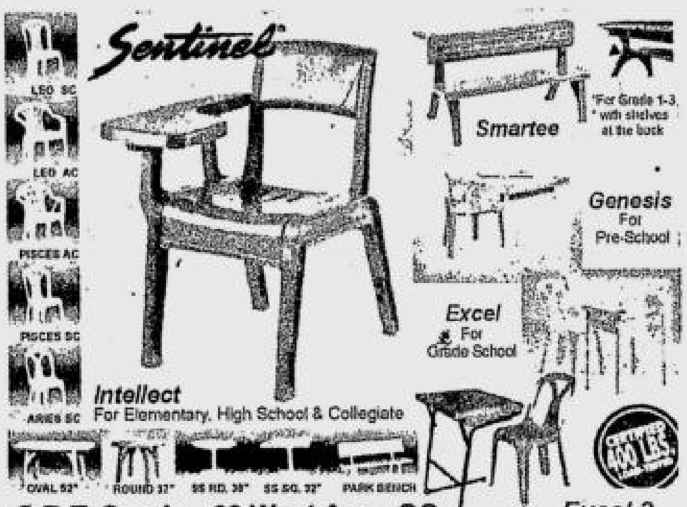

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School Placement and Scholarships Branch
Scholarships Section
3rd Level Podium Block
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Founding Chairman

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OPINION

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Buying peace

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's appointment of Benjamin Abalos as chair of the Commission on Elections is an attempt to break the impasse and buy peace in the Comelec by sacrificing Alfredo Benipayo.

She decided not to reappoint Benipayo after the Commission on Appointments had bypassed several times his appointment on the mistaken notion that he was responsible for the deadlock. The fact is that he was not, and the blame lies squarely on a bloc of four commissioners, whose point-person is Luzviminda Tancangco.

This bloc, which constitutes the majority in the seven-member Comelec, systematically blocked all the initiatives of Benipayo, especially the review of controversial contracts favored by the bloc for 17 months since his first appointment. The replacement of Benipayo will not ensure the cooperation of the bloc. Nor will the amity dinner where Abalos served wine and lamb chops to his new colleagues because sooner than later he will have to face the issues that had divided Benipayo and the gang of four. These issues cannot be papered over by protestations of goodwill on the side of Abalos and the majority.

Abalos, a former mayor of Mandaluyong, was plucked from the chairmanship of the Metro Manila Development Authority, and sent to the Comelec, in the hope that he and the truculent majority will be able to work together. The relationship between the Comelec chair and the four—Tancangco and Commissioners Rufino Javier, Ralph Lantion and Mehol Sadain—is not a matter of chemistry between them.

Tancangco had berated Benipayo for being "arrogant," diverting the public from the controversial transactions and actions of the majority. The President, according to Palace insiders, faulted Benipayo for his "poor PR." But what about the PR of Tancangco and her cabal? Tancangco is no less arrogant than Benipayo. Tancangco's obstruction borders on being obnoxious.

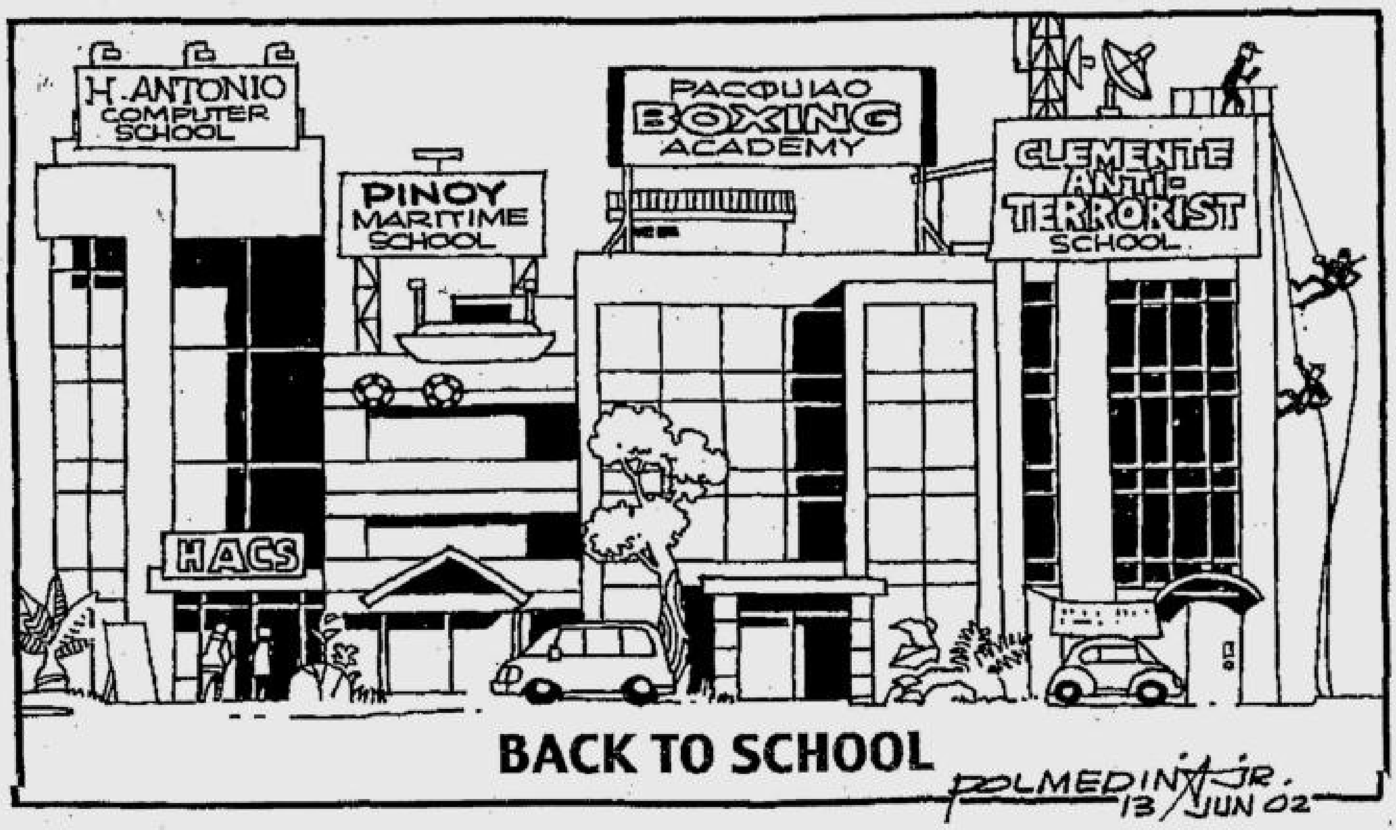
It was therefore a mistake for the President to consider the conflict at the Comelec as a PR problem that could be solved by the magic of human chemistry. Tancangco gave herself away when, in an apparently conciliatory reaction to Abalos' appointment, she said that the conflict that had split and paralyzed the Comelec was a "thing of the past." The implication is that the conflict was a personal matter for her rather than one arising from important issues, much less on principles.

The roots of that conflict are not bad chemistry. They lie basically on the opposition by Benipayo to the award by the Tancangco bloc of the Voters' Registration and Identification System (VRIS) to Photokina Marketing Corp. at a cost of P6.5 billion, exceeding the Comelec budget of P1.2 billion. The VRIS is one of the more controversial projects of Tancangco. Because of this controversy, the project was shelved and the contract is now being litigated in the courts.

The Photokina contract sparked conflict between former Comelec Chair Harriet Demetriou and Tancango's group. The controversy continued to bedevil the relationship between Benipayo, who questioned it, and the four. It is at the bottom of the tensions between them.

The same contract is one of the key issues raised in the impeachment charges against Tancangco for alleged culpable violation of the Constitution. She has also been accused of systematically paralyzing the Comelec by having absented herself from 43 meetings out of 85. She has also been accused of corruption and betrayal of public trust in the impeachment complaint which has been signed by more congressmen and civic groups than those who filed the impeachment complaint against then President Joseph Estrada.

The appointment of Abalos cannot stop the impeachment process now under way. But the impeachment sheet details specific cases underlying the conflict during Benipayo's short-lived administration. These issues are certain to confront Abalos and define his relationship with the majority. Tancangco has the weapon (the numbers) to obstruct Abalos. The larger context is that by imposing her own priority—that of giving preference to cleaning up the electoral rules rather than speeding the computerizing of elections—a deadlock has been created to impede reforms that will help ensure clean elections. Tancangco should not be allowed to set the terms for election modernization.



BACK TO SCHOOL

POLMEDINA JR.
13 JUN 02

Rights of homeowners and their associations

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THIS is that time of year when "legalized extortion" takes place in many exclusive subdivisions or villages. This is the time homeowners' associations sell vehicle stickers to residents and non-residents for the right to use subdivision streets. Without the sticker, a motorist will not be allowed past the gate unless he surrenders to the guard his driver's license or an identification card. The justification for this is "security" and for the maintenance of the roads inside the subdivision.

First off, let me point out that this anomaly is caused by the negligence and indifference of local governments. They are supposed to provide security and maintain the roads inside their jurisdictions. They're also supposed to collect the garbage and pay for the electricity consumed by street lights.

They don't do that, and as a result, the homeowners' associations are forced to raise funds from private sources to pay for the security guards, garbage collectors, road maintenance, electric lights and street sweepers and grass cutters. The costs can add up to millions of pesos a year.

The association is supposed to get its funds from the monthly dues of members. But some members are *kapalmuks*, freeloaders who refuse to pay their dues while benefiting from all the services the association is doing and paying for, such as security, street lights, garbage collection and road maintenance. Anyway, even if everybody pays, the amount collected from monthly dues is never enough. So the association's officers have to be inventive and resourceful to raise funds from other sources. These are the fees for vehicle stickers and the hefty fees exacted from those building their homes.

To avoid paying and following association regulations, some incorrigible tightwads refuse to join associations while at the same time enjoying the benefits made possible by their paying neighbors.

Can a homeowner do that? Yes and no. Decisions of the Supreme Court should be able to guide homeowners and associations.

The Constitution guarantees an individual's freedom to join an association. But that freedom also includes the freedom **not** to join. "The provision guarantees the right to form an association," said the Supreme Court. "It does not include the right to compel others to form or join one."

However, the Court also ruled that individuals and entities "utilizing subdivision roads and/or other facilities" (such as those mentioned earlier) are duty-bound to pay reasonable fees and perform "corresponding duties and responsibilities. They cannot unjustly benefit or enrich themselves (at the expense of the association). If they don't abide by (the association) rules and regulations... appropriate sanctions" may be imposed.

These individuals include non-members and even those who are not living in the subdivision but are merely passing through the subdivision roads. And "anyone—member or non-member—is liable to the association for any violation or infraction of its rights, interest and privileges." The association can also "impose disciplinary measures and/or take legal action against any erring or delinquent member, pursuant to its objective of 'promoting and protecting their (the members') mutual interest and assisting in their community development'."

* * *

The articles of incorporation and by-laws of some homeowners associations contain the provision that all lot owners in the subdivision are "automatically members of the association." Some lot titles contain the annotation that the buyer becomes an automatic member of the association. Are these valid and legal? Again, yes and no.

In Sta. Clara Homeowners Association et al. vs. Gaston, the Supreme Court ruled that membership in a homeowners' association "is voluntary and cannot be unilaterally forced by a provision in the association's articles of incorporation and by-laws, which alleged member did not agree to be bound to."

But in Bel Air Village Association Inc. vs. Dionisio, the Court ruled that Dionisio's lot title "contains an annotation to the effect that the lot owner becomes an automatic member of the respondent Bel Air Association and must abide by such rules and regulations laid down by the Association in the interest of the sanitation, security and the general welfare of the community." In buying the lot, the buyer bound himself to that annotation, the Court said.

I repeat and emphasize, however, that even a non-member is bound to pay reasonable fees and obey rules imposed by the association "if they avail themselves of any of the services rendered by it," such as road maintenance and street lights.

Can the security guards of a subdivision prevent a resident from going home if he has no vehicle sticker? No. Under the Constitution, residents have "a right of free access to and from their residential abode." The association and its guards "have the obligation to respect this right."

However, in the interest of security and pertinent to the rules imposed by the association to attain such security, the resident can be obliged to show an identification card, though he need not surrender his driver's license. The Supreme Court has ruled that even traffic policemen, much less mere security guards, cannot compel a motorist to surrender his driver's license. They can look at it and copy it but not ask for its surrender.

Just teach history

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IT'S pretty much a fait accompli, the introduction of a new curriculum in public schools that will cut down on subjects and concentrate on the basics: reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic, the time-tested three "R's." But it bears comment nonetheless.

I myself am not unduly worried that this seeming preference for the more knowledge-based subjects over the "value-laden" ones will undermine the development of the student's social or civic consciousness. You won't have a social or civic consciousness if you don't have a critical mind, and you won't have a critical mind if you can't read, write and do arithmetic. Which, if we are to go by the figures, is what's wrong with many of our elementary public school pupils. Many finish school barely able to read, write and count. Those who drop out after the first grade lapse back to illiteracy.

In fact, it's what's wrong with many elementary public school teachers. Many flunked the teaching exams several times before finally making the grade. We're talking elementary here in more ways than one. First things first.

The value-laden courses I myself would reduce to just one course. That is Philippine history.

I've always said that the one thing we lack sorely, which other Asians have abundantly, is a sense of country. And I've always said that one way, if not the only way, to solve that is by instilling among students a sense of history, a sense of the past, a sense of what went before. The reason we have no sense of country is that we have no sense of history. We have no sense of what made us what we are.

Jose Rizal was merely being commonsensical when he said people who do not see what's behind them will never see what's in front of them. Or people who do not see where they came from will never know where they are going to. It's as true of nations as of individuals. It's your life-story that gives you a sense of purpose, a sense of meaning, even a sense of destiny, as the more grandiose would call it.

The symptoms are patent. Our inability to remember is legendary. Everyone has commented on that national affliction, including we ourselves. Why that is so, why we are gripped with that malady, is another story altogether. Suffice it to say that I suspect it is a combination of the systematic destruction of our past by our colonizers and our own adoption of forgetfulness (and gallows humor) as a mode of survival. Lest we forget—though clearly most of us have, if indeed we knew it to begin with—the Americans forbade any profession of patriotism on pain of death or incarceration during their bloody pacification campaign, which lasted throughout the first decade of the 20th century. But we ourselves also unconsciously agreed to blot out the painful episodes from our past and retain in our racial memory only the mythical aspects of colonialism's benignity.

Whatever the reason, the path to a cure is clear. Learning our story is our Ariadne's thread out of the Minotaur's cave, our lifeline out of our darkness. It is the one thing that can carve a shape out of our national inchoateness.

I have this on experience, as I've told people in various talks, most recently a group of Fil-Ams on a study tour here. I grew up like most Filipinos, knowing only the myths: the myths of Bataan, Liberation and a paradise lost, which was American rule. The last Manuel Quezon had much to do with, bequeathing the famous line, "I would rather have the country run like hell by Filipinos than like heaven by Americans." Which not only turned out to be prophetic but suggested that American rule was nothing less than divine. It was only when I started reading history that a quite different vista unfolded before my eyes. I've spoken of the sensation before as not unlike being able to see for the first time after being blind from birth. I was not exaggerating.

I need to make two caveats about the teaching of history, however. The first has to do with the familiar complaint of students about history being a (jumbled) collection of names, dates and places. The complaint is a valid one. I myself found history in elementary and high school immensely boring for that reason. What we need are teachers who can teach Philippine history with more passion and intelligence. Who can turn history into the exciting story that it is, and not the sleeping pill it often is in classrooms.

I recall defending Ambeth Ocampo once from detractors who said he tended to trivialize history. I continue to maintain that defense. I cannot see how anyone who infuses history with the urgency and colorfulness of today's news, turning the actors of the past into people not unlike you and me and not the cardboard characters of reverential memory, can possibly trivialize the past. I cannot see how anyone who makes the past live again cannot have a healthy respect for it. We need teachers like that.

My other caveat is that the history that is taught in the classroom finds reinforcement outside of it. But this is more a hope than a caveat. Teaching values in school is only as good as the values find corroboration in real life. There are limits to how much honesty you can impart to students when real life rewards dishonesty. There are limits to how much independence you can impart to students when real life rewards acquiescence. And there are limits to how much love of country you can impart to students when real life rewards people who scorn it.

That is the reason I am not that big on "value-laden" courses. Most of my values, above all my nationalist ones, I got not from school but outside of it, in the intellectual ferment of my time.

Just teach Philippine history in schools. That's the best that you can do as far as that goes.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Gracia's amazing grace

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE NEWSPAPER caption said it all: "Can you recognize her?" Two photos of Gracia Burnham were juxtaposed: one showing her in captivity with her head covered, Muslim-style, looking very wan and weary and even frightened beside her emaciated husband Martin; the other showing her emerging into freedom in a bright red blouse, not her widow's weeds, sporting a new coiffure, her face newly made-up. The media captured Gracia's smile, which was as dazzling as the sun after the storm, belying her incredible ordeal and her sorrow over the death of Martin and her friend Ediborah Yap. In her refusal to look mournful as she goes about "picking up the pieces of my life," she is the picture of the human being's indomitable spirit. But more than that, Gracia, true to her name, is amazing grace epitomized—a true Christian who lives by her faith. She inspires us all.

* * *

Sen. Blas Ople recently said that if Senate President Franklin Drilon refused to sign a subpoena for former President Fidel V. Ramos to appear before two committees chaired by Sen. John Osmeña, he would sign it as Senate president pro tempore, as per the rules of the Senate.

There are several things wrong with that opinion. In the first place, as Drilon pointed out, under the rules only the Senate president can sign the subpoena, and this has been a hallowed tradition in the chamber. "They will have to replace me first," he said.

In the second place, Ople's hold on the No. 2 post is very questionable. The Senate rules state that the two top posts and that of Senate secretary are secured by a majority vote of *all* senators, not just a majority of those in the country. Ople assumed his post on the basis of the vote of only 12 senators. Thus, his subpoena, like their rump sessions, is invalid.

Ramos, fully aware of this, says he recognizes the Drilon group, and that the opposition can go ahead and have him arrested. Should Ople insist on issuing that subpoena, it would place the office of the Senate sergeant-at-arms in a dilemma.

* * *

It is pitiful that the Senate opposition seems to have thrown all caution to the winds. It seems to be in a self-destruct mode. Unfortunately, it is dragging the entire chamber down, making people realize how superfluous the Senate has become and giving a big boost to those who are moving for constitutional change. Evidence of the *nagwawala* mode is that the opposition unilaterally issued a new booklet of Senate rules, which the old majority has refused to accept. Until the coup, the practice has been for the Senate president to sign all major disbursements in the chamber, but the new rules allow the committee on accounts, now chaired by Sen. Sergio Osmeña, to share this function. The opposition has even threatened to order LandBank not to honor Drilon's signature. The idea is obviously to emasculate him.

* * *

It's all systems go for the implementation of the new Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) in all the public schools, and 75 percent of the private schools are joining up. The latest group to throw its support is the Philippine Elementary School Principals Association. As Education Secretary Raul Roco has explained, the BEC will "decongest" the curriculum and make it more focused and integrated. The BEC's aim, he stressed, is to cure the inability of students to read with comprehension at Grade 3 and even Grade 6, and help equip them for "lifelong learning" as well as global competitiveness. For Grades 1 and 2, the focus will be only on English, Filipino, Math and a course area called Makabayan, which will integrate social studies, history, arts, geography and civics, with emphasis on a "healthy personal and national self-identity." In the lowest grades, science and health are part of the English area, but scientific processes are also used in Filipino and Makabayan. This means the teachers will be discussing various science and health topics in the process of teaching language.

* * *

In high school, the learning areas are English, Filipino, Science, Math and Makabayan. One of the major changes is in Math, which shifted from the "spiral system" wherein all Math subjects are introduced at every level, to the "linear sequential approach" wherein only Elementary Algebra is taught in first year, Intermediate Algebra in second year and Geometry in the third year. The intensive emphasis on Algebra, says Roco, arises from the fact that it gives the basic discipline for creative computer programming. Without this theoretical framework, IT teaching will only produce mere encoders in the knowledge society. He pointed out that Ateneo University president Bienvenido Nebres, who has a Ph.D. in Math from the Stanford University, had a big hand in designing the new Math curriculum.

Roco said that since the DepEd is trying out something new and evolutionary, monitoring will be done every step of the way, notably at the educators' congress in October this year.

We kidded Roco about how his immersion in the education field has shielded him from the slings and arrows of politics, and he admitted, with a big smile, that he's hiding in the DepEd. According to the latest Pulse Asia survey, he enjoys the highest gross rating among Cabinet members at 77 percent, while the DepEd is now the most trusted agency of the bureaucracy.

What are his political plans? As expected, he refused to answer that one.

* * *

A reminder to couples who are earnestly seeking a solution to their troubled marriages. Retrouvaille, a Catholic ministry, is sponsoring another healing weekend for such couples starting tomorrow, Friday, June 14, at 6 p.m. up to Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Mother of Mercy Spiritual Center, SVD Road, Barangay San Jose, Tagaytay City. Its spiritual director is Fr. Dave Clay of the Columban Fathers, who has made a name for himself in this ministry. For more information, call Father Clay at 523-3361 or cell phone 0918-902-0511, or Tom and Ruby del Castillo, 931-8413 or 932-3750, or Ike and Flor Carlos, 718-0689.

A dying industry

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

YOU can expect an actor to be histrionic, but I don't think it was mere histrionics that drove Ruffa Mae Quinto to tears on the first day of the Manila Film Festival. She was crying, the comedienne told a TV reporter, because there was such a big crowd in the mall and such long queues before the theaters showing the six entries to the festival.

Ordinary people, like you and me, may think shedding tears over an appreciative audience is a bit "exag." But crowds flocking to watch local films have been such a rare sight these days that when it happens, movie industry folks are positively ecstatic and, yes, driven to tears.

In a study, the Film Development Foundation of the Philippines cites alarming statistics that point to the imminent demise of the local film industry. From 30 million tickets bought in Metro Manila theaters in 1997, the number of tickets sold fell by half, to 15 million, last year. Nationwide, ticket sales are estimated to have dropped from about P1.2 billion in 1999 to P981.3 million in 2001, an 18 percent decrease in three years.

In 1997, 52 production outfits released and exhibited a total of 202 movies, with the most active, MAQ, making 24 movies or an average of two a month. By 2000, only 32 production outfits remained active, releasing just 89 films. Of the nine major producers in 1997, only four remained by 2000, and their output this year has fallen far short of even their reduced output two years ago. "If the trend continues," says the study, "the Philippines will be producing less than 30 films yearly by 2004."

* * *

THE HUMAN side of these disheartening figures can be glimpsed in the appalling drop in the number of jobs within the industry. In 1997, the film industry was responsible for 83,310 direct hires, from actors to scriptwriters to directors and crew, and for 175,000 indirect hires, including workers in the merchandising and distribution side of the industry. By 2000, the number of direct hires was down to 56,651 and indirect hires to 119,000.

Remember, too, that much of employment in films has never been regular or routine. Most talent and crew work on a seasonal basis, from film to film. And while movie actors have chosen the expedient of migrating to television while film assignments are few and far between, other industry workers don't have the luxury of choice. "Our stuntmen are now driving trucks or working as *kargadors!*" exclaims film director Marilou Diaz-Abaya. If the local film industry dies, the foundation estimates that some 180,000 workers will lose their livelihoods, affecting close to a million household members.

And as the local film industry goes through its death throes, "less and less will benefit from it, including the government," the foundation study declares. Not only will producers and theater owners earn less, while fewer talents and crew find work, government revenue in the form of taxes will dwindle as well.

* * *

THIS is a supreme irony, because heavy taxation has been a particular bane of the movie industry for more than 50 years.

For every film produced and exhibited, the producer pays 30 percent of gross box-office receipts in amusement taxes. There is also a 5-percent withholding tax on the producer's film share, 32-percent corporate income tax, and 10-percent VAT on producer's film share.

Apart from these taxes on gross receipts, the movie industry is also levied national taxes in the form of income tax, capital gains tax and multi-national regional office tax; local taxes in the form of municipal tax, community tax, garbage and inspection fees, and Local Government Code taxes; and regulatory fees charged by the MTRCB, VRB and annual registration fees.

Laurice Guillen, a film director who is also the outgoing executive director of the Film Foundation, says that in other countries, the film industry is not only taxed sparingly (if not given outright tax breaks) but actually subsidized by the government. For these countries, she says, the development and preservation of the film industry are seen as a national cultural imperative, not just to repel the dominance of Hollywood in the world market, but also to produce movies that can be used to promote the local culture around the world.

* * *

WHY have local films fallen so low in terms of profitability and popularity? Why are local audiences staying away from Filipino movies when once no Hollywood movie, even a blockbuster abroad, could compete with a local product? What changed?

The foundation points out three of the biggest causes for this decline: heavy taxation, lower quality films and a dwindling audience, the last due in big part to rampant piracy and to other entertainment options.

The dwindling audience for local films is certainly a puzzle, since Filipinos remain as movie-mad as ever. This is one of only a few countries in the world, after all, where movie houses are open from morning till late at night. The trouble is, audiences have shifted loyalties to foreign, mostly American, movies.

Piracy has been a particularly pesky thorn on the industry's side. "Even before the first day of showing, you can already find pirated discs on sale on the sidewalks," complains Guillen. And at P50 per disc, matching the price of a single theater ticket, an entire family can "enjoy" a purloined film in the comfort of their home.

No wonder even "Super B" was driven to tears at the sight of people lining up to watch not just her movie, but a harvest of local films.

Kidnap story ends in death

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

IF you have watched, like I have, someone being put to death by lethal injection a few meters from where you were seated; if you have heard a death convict's soul roar its last (to the hanging microphone) before it left for parts unknown; if you have seen the grief of the very ones he had violated, the daughters he had raped, you would wonder if ending a criminal's life is justifiable and necessary. If it makes sense.

In that particular case, a call from the highest official of the land (maybe to stay the execution?) came seconds after the man had breathed his last. I have not forgotten that day. I have kept the photo I took of the huge ID that we were required to wear for that occasion. Mine was Number 21 and beside the number was the prison seal and the big words, "Death Chamber." Imagine wearing that around your neck.

But if you have listened, like I have, to victims of heinous crimes who shudder and shake while tearfully recalling their ordeal; if you have listened to young innocent persons speak about the terror that has been their constant companion since their abduction and release; if you have met parents who feel that their families have been diminished and who are struggling hard to put their lives back on track, you would ask why the perpetrators of the evil should not deserve a most excruciating death. Lethal injection seems merciful.

It took only less than three years for the kidnappers of Sharleen and Sheryl Tangcangco to get their just desserts. Accused Renato Sulit, Rufino Sulit, Nestor Andaya, Rolando Ranola, Edwin Novales and eight John Does were found guilty of the crime of "kidnapping for ransom and serious illegal detention...without any mitigating circumstance" and meted out the "extreme penalty of death." Judge Floro P. Alejo of the regional trial court in Valenzuela City handed down the judgment.

I had spoken to Sharleen and her family as well as to several other victims for our I-Team series on kidnapping last year. (We did not use their real names or discuss the merits because the cases were undergoing trial.) One of the things that struck me was how the victims' memory of their ordeal continued to remain so vivid that speaking about it was almost like reliving the experience. One of the Tangcangco sisters trembled uncontrollably while speaking about certain details and we had to take a break. It was never really over. A mother wept continuously while recalling how her dead child and maid were found hidden between the ceiling and the roof.

Swift justice, the victims cry. I have heard a few people say how they wished more Abu Sayyaf bandits had been killed during last week's military operation that tried to rescue Ediborah Yap and American couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and which ended in the death of Martin and Ediborah and four bandits. I myself could not help fantasizing about what I would have done had I been there—as a journalist. If the soldier firing the machine gun got hit and there was nobody to take his place and the bandits were coming straight at me or us, I would not wave my press card, I would probably take over and fire away. Take that and that and that. By the way, some foreign journalists assigned in war zones now undergo war and security training in order to protect themselves.

The victims thirst for justice, swift justice. The decision on People of the Philippines vs. Renato Sulit et al. was a whiff of fresh air. The prosecution lawyer sent me a copy of the decision right away. He and his clients were not necessarily asking for the death penalty, but, well, the accused brought it upon themselves.

Sisters Sharleen, 17, and Sheryl, 16, were kidnapped in Valenzuela on July, 20, 1999. They were on their way to school, with Sharleen behind the wheel, when their path was blocked by armed men who shouted, "Anti-carnapping!" Sharleen and Sheryl were brought to Cavite were they were detained for more than three days. Their kidnappers demanded a P20-million ransom.

During those days that the kidnappers were harassing the Tangcangco family, Sharleen and Sheryl were kept in a decrepit hut and then transferred to another one which was just as bad. They had little food and water, no access to a bathroom. They cried themselves to sleep. Several times their kidnappers threatened to kill them if their parents failed to deliver the money.

Meanwhile, the Tangcangcos begged for time to raise the ransom money which had been lowered to P2 million. Getting the money to the kidnappers was a nightmare. The kidnappers were always suspicious that the police were tracking them down.

After several failed attempts, money changed hands somewhere in Parañaque. The sisters were released.

The defense tried to put up a fight but the alibis of the accused just did not wash. One of them had earlier pleaded guilty but later changed his mind. To make a long story short, in this case the family concerned was in touch with police authorities who were on the case every step of the way.

Wrote the judge: "There is a need to impose this extreme penalty to secure society against the threatened and actual evil."

In his article "The Death Penalty and Deterrence" in the US publication National Forum, Paul H. Rubin said that the question of deterrence is always a subject of debate. After analyzing case studies, Rubin wrote that each execution led to a significant reduction in the number of homicides and it was likely that each actually **deterred** an even larger number. Rubin argued that having a significant deterrent effect does not prove that capital punishment is good or socially desirable.

Chinoy

YOUNGBLOOD

Arlene A. Sy

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

IT'S interesting to be Chinoy.

I can vividly remember my early years: the groans and childish pouts of protest, followed by attempts at uttering what seemed like passable, *chop-suey* Chinese phrases. But we had very little choice back then. My brother and I couldn't get what we wanted unless we articulated our wants and needs in straight Fookien, the Chinese dialect widely used in the Philippines. English and Tagalog were permitted once in a while, but not without a constant, insistent reminder to speak in Chinese.

Chinky-eyed sister and brother mingled with more chinky-eyed children in school. We were both sent to private Catholic schools, each boasting of a well-grounded Chinese curriculum. For years we studied Mandarin (the mother of all Chinese dialects), the daily lessons consisting of stories and a corresponding set of vocabulary words and guide questions. There were enrichment activities once in a while, such as composition writing, dialogue recitation, Chinese calligraphy. And of course, there were the annual celebrations of the Mooncake Festival and Chinese New Year, complete with the customary dragon and lion dances. It was Little China for us every day. And more often than not, we were Little Chinese who actually knew more Taglish than Chinese.

Hard work and perseverance allowed me to graduate from high school with an award in Chinese language proficiency. Which should be enough to prove to the world my mastery of both spoken and written Mandarin.

But it isn't so. As soon as I entered college, all 13 years of Mandarin flew out the window. Except for some basic conversational words and phrases, I now find myself incapable of speaking or writing profound, meaningful Chinese sentences. (I can almost see my Chinese teachers frowning, ashamed of me.) Sadly, my friends' notion that I know "perfect" Mandarin vanishes the moment I open my mouth. The truth is, I am more proficient in Fookien (and surprisingly, English and Filipino), which I regularly use at home. I suppose it comes with daily practice and usage.

But I am not about to discuss the ways in which my high school's Chinese curriculum could be improved. I just want to speak for others like me, members of the young Chinese-Filipino community who've studied Mandarin for at least 10 years and who don't exactly find good, serious use for it right now. I'd bet that at present, none of my high school batchmates finds the 13 years of Chinese studies very useful (unless "useful" means impressing college friends with Chinese translations of "I love you" and "How are you?").

Who can blame us? We grew up on modern Philippine soil, in an age when technology was advancing at a dizzying pace. Many of us grew up under the care of *yayas* who put us to sleep by singing popular songs. We witnessed events in so many forms of media reporting both in English and Filipino. We acquired a taste for Jollibee and McDonald's hamburgers long before our palates grew accustomed to the taste of steamed dumplings, bamboo shoots and black chicken soup. So don't blame us if we can't get that Chinese accent right.

And excuse us for that familiar Chinese twang in our Tagalog or English.

In college, I was singled out once or twice because of my upbringing. One teacher asked me if I was allowed to date Pinoys, or if I could conceive of one as a boyfriend. (I could feel all my blockmates' eyes riveted on me, intrigued, as if I were some laboratory specimen.) Another teacher, after asking us to pass our test papers, commended the very few Chinese in the class for being so respectful after noting that we had handed over the sheets of paper with both hands. (Actually we didn't do it that way, but I guess he was just making a point.)

There's nothing exciting about being Chinese, really. Sometimes there are even more downsides to it than perks. For one thing, you have to observe certain traditions that you don't necessarily understand. You attend really big family gatherings where half of those who come do not know each other. At one time or another, you are not allowed to go out with a guy because, first and foremost, he's not Chinese (duh!). And yes, of course, you can't let your guard down and you must exercise great vigilance especially if it's the kidnapping season.

I sometimes wonder where people like me stand. Except for my chinky eyes, fair complexion and 100-percent Chinese blood, I'm not exactly what you would call a pure Chinese. Despite being surrounded by so many Chinese—family, relatives, high school friends—I know what it's like to be a true Filipino.

Whoever coined the term "Chinoy" must have been very perceptive. He realized the great significance of the role being played by the young generation of Chinese-Filipinos in bridging two very different cultures and serving as catalysts for an assimilation of two worlds.

It's nice to be able to look up to the likes of Henry Sy (to whom I am not related, by the way) and John Gokongwei—Chinese who've made it big in the Philippines. And I'm not referring to big bucks. Obviously, people like them have found security, success, fulfillment and most importantly, a home in a country far from China. I'm sure they've had their share of trying to adjust and searching for their identity. It's comforting to know that they have embraced this country and, more importantly, that this country has embraced them as her own citizens.

I had the good fortune of visiting our ancestral home in Fujian province two years ago. Naturally, the locals spoke their dialect, Fookien, fluently. At first I thought that was to my advantage. I quickly realized I was wrong as I started groping for the most formal, proper Fookien words to use. I was surprised to discover that I wasn't as fluent as I thought I was.

One time I went to this quaint shoe store and, trying to explain why I wanted a bigger size, unconsciously blurted out, "Because!"

The saleslady stared at me blankly.

I gave up trying to explain.

I wanted to tell her: "Well, I'm Chinoy. And damn proud of it."

Arlene A. Sy, 19, is an incoming sophomore at the Ateneo de Manila University. And yes, she is allowed to date Pinoys.

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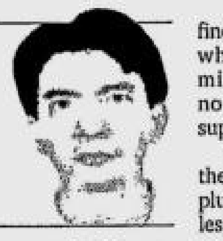
Wanted: Tatay

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



I HAVE a treat for readers today: you get to "eavesdrop" on a part of a doctoral dissertation defense that I attended last week.

The student was Tess Ujano Batangan and she was defending her psychology dissertation, focusing on relationships between adolescent children and their parents. It was an excellent study with many useful insights.

One finding from the study that caught my attention was the difference in adolescents' perceptions of Tatay and Nanay. I think many of you would have guessed by now that adolescents generally find their mothers more approachable than their fathers. Tess used the Tagalog "*mas bukas*," meaning "more open."

But I wanted to probe into this particular finding, especially because one of Tess' research objectives was to compare single- and two-parent households. So I asked Tess, "Given that a nanay is more open, would there be a significant difference between a single tatay and a single nanay?"

I knew it was a tough question since Tess did not conduct a survey. Her study was based on interviews, which means you're dealing not with statistics but with more complicated life stories and experiences. She paused and then repeated her observation about the nanay being more accessible and that yes, there would be a difference—single mothers are generally able to raise their children quite well, providing the emotional support that is so crucial for adolescents.

The reason I asked that question was that I wanted Tess to be clearer about this notion of a single- and two-parent household. A couple can be "intact," meaning tatay and nanay are married and living together with the children and thus physically accessible, and yet one or both parents might still end up emotionally inaccessible for their children.

Factor in a tatay who's not comfortable with being a tatay, and the picture becomes more complicated. After I asked my question, the other panel members offered their views about the problematic Pinoy tatay. Dr. Nanette Dungo, a sociologist, said there are studies showing that many males are unable to take on the fathering role for lack of a model.

The problem is particularly acute for adolescent males because it is during this crucial period when fathers seem to retreat from their parenting roles. The mothers are there, emotionally available, which means daughters continue to learn how to become a parent, and, more specifically, a nanay. Sons, on the other hand, suddenly find a vacuum since their fathers are unavailable. When these sons start their own families, they find it difficult to respond to their children's needs, especially those of adolescents.

It's an intriguing observation—certainly, the Pinoy tatay is very affectionate with young children, and often takes active roles in rearing infants and toddlers. But something happens as the child grows up, with tatay retreating and therefore depriving another generation of a possible role model.

I think part of the problem is the way we emphasize, and limit, the Filipino father's role as papa, and I'm referring to the current slang definition of the term. When women (and gay men) sigh, "Lord, give me a papa," he or she means someone who can provide economic support. Sometimes, too, a papa has sexual connotations: a boy toy.

But a papa is not necessarily a tatay. Tatay doesn't just bring home the bacon, he has to learn to cook and to serve it, maybe even choosing not to serve it because pork isn't healthy.

Dr. Betty Ventura, who is Tess' adviser, said that she was in another dissertation panel recently and one of the findings there was that the greater a father's participation in food preparation, the higher the chances of the child being malnourished! I think many readers will agree with that finding, imagining a hungry child whining and the Pinoy father microwaving a cup of instant noodles for the child's dinner, supplemented by a bottle of Coke.

Following Betty's revelation, the room became silent as we all plunged into despair over the useless Pinoy tatay. As the thorn in a panel of roses, I began to cringe, wondering if even the papa role would eventually disappear, what with more and more Filipinas becoming economically independent. Is the Pinoy doomed, useful only for procreation and recreation?

Thankfully, Nanette broke the silence by blurting out, "But you know, my husband is such a good tatay. Maybe because he's Kapampangan."

Ah, the ethnic factor, I proposed.

Betty chimed in, "My husband's a great father too, and he's half-Ilokano and half-Bikolano."

"Ah," I continued in my role as the anthropologist and suggested, half in jest, "The fathering comes from the Bikolano part."

You could almost hear trumpets and fanfare, sunlight streaming into the room as we all began to feel more hopeful. The other members of the panel—Dr. Grace Aguiling Dalisay, Dr. Lourdes Ledesma and Dr. Daisy Carlota—followed suit, describing how wonderful their husbands, brothers and fathers were as tatay.

So is there hope for the Pinoy tatay? Are we getting a new generation of males who are ready to give their kids quality time, joining them for mountaineering, trekking, kayaking, baking? Baking? Oh, why not, and I meant kayaking with his daughters and baking with his sons.

I really don't have the answers, but I'm writing this column to pressure Tess to convert her dissertation into a book so we'll get more people interested in the complexities of parenting, especially the tatay part. Readers, too, are welcome to send in their views and suggestions about the tatay.

* * *

Write me at tatay@pinoykasi.net

Senate should be abolished

LETTERS

THE CURRENT imbroglio in the Senate is a reflection of what is wrong with our society as a whole. The senators' preoccupation with partisan politics belies their grandiose pronouncements about their concern for the people's welfare. When avarice and overweening ambition get hold of these people who have a moist eye on the 2004 elections, we have to bid goodbye to our hope for a better future for ourselves and the succeeding generations.

I suggest that a constitutional convention be called to study and propose, among other things, the abolition of the Senate and the establishment of a unicameral congress. That way, we economize in terms of salaries and pork and at the same time simplify the lawmaking process. Most of our senators are only good at conducting probes "in aid of legislation" and advancing their personal agenda.

I say to them: Get off your high horse and buckle down to work, or you will find yourselves totally irrelevant in this era of competition and globalization. Better still, resign and abolish your chamber in an emergency, sine die session.

—JOSE B. JUMAWAN,
Ponteverde Subd., Cupang,
Antipolo City

PAL wants to be competitive

THE COLUMN, "The other side of the coin" by Conrado de Quiros (PDI, 6/6/02) contains gross inaccuracies that we feel compelled to correct.

First, Philippine Airlines does not want protection. PAL has every intention to become globally competitive. PAL signaled this goal when it refleeted to acquire new Boeing and Airbus planes. This was a $2-billion strategic decision.

What we ask from the government is enough support to mitigate the advantage that foreign airlines get from their own governments. It is widely known that other countries have erected protective barriers for their airline industry, such as subsidies (United States, Europe, most Asian countries), direct and indirect preferences for home airlines (Singapore's investments in the Singapore Airlines hub), closure for home markets (United States), government takeover of struggling flag carriers (Malaysia, New Zealand), discriminatory barriers to market access (Saudi Arabia, United States, Thailand, Vietnam).

It is not a good policy for the government to pull the rug under our feet at a time when we are just proving our competitive resolve.

Second, the Naia Terminal 2 is not reserved for PAL alone. It was the government that decided to take in PAL as its tenant in Terminal 2, mainly because of the size of PAL and because it is the national flag carrier. Foreign airlines did not want to move to Terminal 2 because it was designed essentially for domestic use and not international flights. The other domestic airlines on the other hand, did not want to transfer to Terminal 2. They had then just invested in improving their present domestic terminal and offices. The transfer would have been much more operationally difficult and expensive for them to do.

Further, as support to the local airline industry and to provide greater convenience for passengers in back-to-back connections, the government has a duty to ensure that Philippine carriers are given single-terminal international-to-international and international-to-domestic connection facilities. This is being done in Frankfurt, Hong Kong and Singapore.

The PAL legislative franchise which was included in the sale of PAL in 1992 provided exemption privileges from taxes, charges, fees and other impositions of the government. After privatization was completed, different government agencies refused to recognize these privileges.

Third, even before the RP-Taiwan agreement was concluded in 1996, PAL expressed strong objections because of the potential of serious abuses of excess capacity provisions. Our opposition was on a matter of principle and market stability.

When China Airlines and EVA Air abused their rights under the treaty, the Philippine government complained. But the Taiwanese government ignored it and refused to negotiate a fair treaty. The Philippine government was compelled to take appropriate steps to protect the sovereignty of the Philippines. It initially suspended the treaty to get the Taiwanese back to the negotiating table. Eventually, a new agreement was forged.

Fourth, the issue against "open skies" is not between openness and protectionism. The heart of the debate is "fairness" in competition—that is, whether we should allow heavily subsidized foreign airlines to compete with local airlines. The US government, for example, doled out $15 billion in aid to American airlines after the Sept. 11 terrorist attack. On the other hand, Philippine airline companies are private enterprises doing their best to compete without the benefit of state aid. In addition, the US government provided insurance guarantee to American carriers while most other airlines, including PAL, had to pay very high premium to commercial houses when global insurance threatened to withdraw third party liability cover for the airlines.

To equate the objection to "open skies" with protectionism is a simplistic way of presenting the state of our airline industry.

The objection to "open skies" is not about nationalism, not about PAL's privileges, and not about Lucio Tan. Rather, it is about upholding the national interest.

—AVELINO L. ZAPANTA,
president and chief operating officer, Philippine Airlines

Pangulong
Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
TAMA NA ANG PORMA
MANINDIGAN KA
para sa REPORMANG AGRARYO!!!

Kami, ang Alyansa ng mga Kilusang Magsasaka (KILOS-SAKA) at mga kaalyadong organisasyon ay naniniwalang mahalaga ang papel ng repormang agraryo para magwagi tayo sa ating laban sa kahirapan. Pero tumitindi ang aming pagkadismaya at pangamba dahil sa klase ng repormang agraryong ipinatutupad sa ilalim ng inyong pamahalaan.

Hindi totoo na pinakamalaki sa kasaysayan ang "accomplishment" ng Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) ngayong taon. Ang totoo, ito pa nga ang pinakamababa sa mga accomplishment na naitala sa kasaysayan. Ni hindi nga naabot ng DAR ang ipinangako ninyong 100,000 ektarya na private agricultural lands (PAL), dahil 69% lang sa aktwal na naipamahagi ang PAL, ang 31% ay mga public lands. At wala ring dapat ikasaya dahil hindi pa rin nagagalaw sa ilalim ng CARP ang malalaking lupain nina Cojuangco, Floirendo, Benedicto, Osmeña at iba pa.

Tila nakalimutan ninyong isama sa inyong ulat ang matitinding problemang kinakaharap ng mga magsasaka tulad ng patuloy na pagbawi at pagkansela ng mga Emancipation Patents (EPs) at Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) ; displacement dahil sa laganap na kumbersyon; patuloy na pagkatalo ng mga magsasaka sa kasong agraryo sa mga tanggapang direktang nasa ilalim ninyo, gaya ng Office of the President; di paggalaw sa pinakamalaking balanseng 750,000 ektarya sa niyugan na dapat maipailalim sa CARP; o kung saan napunta ang 100 CADTs na ipinangako ninyo sa mga katutubong Lumad.

Hindi rin ninyo dapat ikatuwa ang hindi paghingi ng DAR ng dagdag na badyet para sa CARP. Ang napakaliit na badyet pa nga ng DAR ang ginagawang dahilan kung bakit ipinipilit nila ang pamamahagi ng lupa sa pamamagitan ng Voluntary Land Transfer/Direct Payment Scheme (VLT/DPS)—mga iskema kung saan nadedehado ang mga magsasaka.

Pangulong Arroyo, inip na inip na kami. Sawang-sawa na kami sa kakahintay na ipatupad nang seryoso ng inyong administrasyon ang CARP. Makialam na kayo sa pagpapatupad ng programa. Kung may tunay na pagmamalasakit ka para sa milyung-milyong magsasaka, gawin ninyo ang mga sumusunod:

- Igiit ang budget para sa land acquisition and distribution na sasapat upang makapagpamahagi ng hindi bababa sa 150,000 ektarya ng pribadong lupang agrikultural kada taon;
- Ipamahagi ang lupa sa pamamagitan ng compulsory acqusition at hindi VLT-DPS;
- Dagliang ipamahagi ang lupain nina Cojuangco, Floirendo, Benedicto, Osmeña at iba pang malalaking panginoong maylupa;
- Kagyat na ipatupad ang repormang agraryo sa niyugan dahil anumang benepisyong magmumula sa coco levy ay hindi dadaloy sa maliliit na magbubukid kung wala pa ring reporma sa lupa; at
- I-certify as urgent ang National Land Use Act (H.B. 3256) para matigil ang walang habas na kumbersyon ng lupang saklaw ng CARP.

Pangulong Arroyo, hindi natin mararating ang tunay na kaunlaran kung walang repormang agraryo at kaunlaran sa kanayunan. Manindigan kayo para dito. Manindigan kayo para sa milyung-milyon mga magsasaka!

• ALYANSA NG MGA KILUSANG MAGSASAK (KILOS SAKA) •

Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka (PAKISAMA) • Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Samahan sa Kanayunan (PKSK) • Center for Agrarian Reform, Empowerment and Transformation Inc. (CARET) • Coconut Industry Reform Movement (COIR) • Kaisahan tungo sa Kaunlaran ng Kanayunan at Reporman Pansakahan (KAISAHAN) • People's Campaign for Agrarian Reform Network (AR Now!) • Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI) • Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panlegal (SALIGAN) • Agro-Reporma • Aniban ng Magsasaka at Manggagawa sa Niyugan (AMMANI) • Aniban ng mga Magsasaka, Mangingisda at Manggagawang-Bukid (AMMMA-Katipunan) • Federation of Agrarian and Industrial Toiling hands (FAITH) • Federation of Free Farmers (FFF) • Kilusan ng mga Manggagawa sa Agrikultura (KMA) • KAMMMPI • KABAPA • Lakas ng Kababaihan Magsasaka sa Kanayunan (LAKAMBINI) • Makabayang Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (MAKABAYAN) • National Small Coconut Farmers Organization (NCSFO) • Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (PKMP) • Peasa Alliance of Samar and Leyte (PASALEY) • Samahang Magsasaka ng 53 Ektarya • Sandigan at Ugnayan ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas (SUMAPI) • National Farmers Supreme Council (SANDUGUAN) • Sumalo Homeowner's Association • Tambuyog Development Center • Task Force Mapalad (TF-Mapalad)

• INSTITUTE OF POLITICS AND GOVERNANCE (IPG) • AKBAYAN CITIZEN'S ACTION PARTY (AKBAYAN!) • NATIONAL PEACE CONFERENCE (NPC) •

Abus have new hostages, says MILF commander

By the PDI Mindanao Bureau and Martin P. Marfil

ZAMBOANGA City—Abu Sayyaf bandits kidnapped new hostages six days after American missionary Martin Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap, who were held captive for about a year, were killed in a military rescue, according to a Moro commander.

Julhambrie Misuari, a commander of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), told reporters that about 20 Abu Sayyaf bandits with some hostages attempted to dock at "Isla Bisaya-bisaya, but were met with fire from MNLF men stationed there."

Misuari, who figured in the November siege of the city's Cabatangan Complex, said an MNLF member was wounded in the clash.

Col. Alexander Yapching, commander of the Task Force Zamboanga, confirmed the skirmishes but said the military was still verifying if the Abu Sayyaf was involved.

Melchor Rosales, spokesperson for the operation against the bandits, said the military had received no report about new hostages.

Chief Insp. Rolando Fernandez said fishermen reported sighting gunmen with some unarmed people in a cluster of islets off this city.

"The villagers disclosed the group was bringing unarmed people believed to be new hostages. This has yet to be confirmed," Fernandez said.

Fernandez said the sighting of suspected hostages occurred in a cluster of islets called Eleven Islands where armed men were seen getting off a speedboat and landing on one of the islets at 9:30 a.m.

Zamboanga police quoted fishermen at Eleven Islands saying Abu Sayyaf bandits might have taken hostages for use as guides to escape Filipino troops trying to track them down after Friday's firefight.

Defense officials denied that the unit headed by Abu Sabaya had been able to slip out of the Sibuco-Sirawai area. Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes told defense reporters that the group was still in the area.

Rosales backtracked from his earlier statement that the Abu Sayyaf strength had been reduced to a "low of 40 and to a high of 60." This time, Rosales pegged the number to nine, the same number, which came out in newspaper reports yesterday.

In Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte, the surviving nine members of the Abu Sayyaf team that guarded Martin Burnham, his wife Gracia and Yap are now being pursued by 600 members of various special military units like Scout Rangers and Marines.

Heavy rains have slowed down the search for Abu Sabaya and his men in the hinterland villages of Sirawai.

Military officials said the nine led by Sabaya was heading back to Barangay Kulasian, near the site of the encounter on June 7.

At least four teams of Special Warfare Group from the Philippine Navy were called in to seal off the waters in Sirawai and in nearby Sibuco.

The nine are not moving as a single group to avoid detection, according to Bashier Ordoñez, an aide of Sabaya captured in Barangay Kulasian.

Chief Supt. Simeon Dizon, Western Mindanao police chief, said he ordered the local police to verify reports that the retreating bandits had abducted some villagers and were using them as human shields.

But Senior Supt. Marcelino Lipana, provincial police director, belied the report. But he said his men continued to warn villagers about the possibility of the retreating Abu Sayyaf bandits seizing new hostages.

Lipana said that because of the danger, he placed at least 62 villages in Sibuco and Sirawai under tight security.

"Because the Abu Sayyaf Group according to the captured aide of Sabaya identified as Bashier Ordoñez have split," he said.

As the search continues, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has offered help.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, told the INQUIRER that the offer was in relation to the recently signed agreement between the rebel group and the government on cooperation against criminality.

He said the MILF could prove to be "elemental in the success of the anti-Abu Sayyaf drive because our people there know the terrain by heart."

"All we need is further coordination because the coordination aspect has been clearly spelled out in the agreement signed in Malaysia," Kabalu said.

In Manila, Senate President Franklin Drilon urged Malacañang to invoke the anti-terrorism tripartite agreement entered into by the Philippines with Malaysia and Indonesia to prevent Abu Sayyaf bandits from seeking sanctuaries in the two neighboring countries.

For his part, opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel asked the Senate to summon Reyes to explain the failure of military intelligence in the manhunt for the Abu Sayyaf bandits and their hostages.

Pimentel said the intelligence fiasco was evident when the bandits and their hostages broke through a naval blockade while fleeing from Basilan to the Zamboanga peninsula. *Julie S. Alipala, Hernan P. de la Cruz and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Rocky Nazareno and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila and Reuters*

US troops . . .

From page A1

since a daring Abu Sayyaf siege of a hospital and church compound last year.

Wearing a maroon suit draped with a native scarf, the President led her top defense and military officials in raising the flag in front of a crowd of about 600, including several US military officers.

Snipers in black suits watched from the town hall's roof, and officers said that soldiers were deployed in a 5-kilometer radius, ready to fend off a surprise attack on the town.

"We are not taking any chances," Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero said.

Ms Macapagal did not talk to reporters and was immediately flown out by military helicopters after the ceremony.

Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar said Ms Macapagal's presence had boosted the morale of Lamitan residents who for years have been living under Abu Sayyaf threat.

"Everyone is happy for the holding of the Independence Day flag raising here. She wants to show that Basilan is really at peace," Akbar said.

The governor said the Abu Sayyaf force had been decimated amid continuing joint US-Philippine military operations in Basilan and in the nearby island of Jolo and in the Zamboanga peninsula.

Military officials say several dozen Abu Sayyaf bandits remain in Basilan but they have been pushed deep into the jungles from where they are not expected to carry out mass attacks.

"They can still recruit (new members), but who will follow them now?" Akbar asked.

Col. Roland Detabali, Southern Command deputy chief for operations, said troops were concentrating on rounding up Abu Sayyaf stragglers and splinter groups in Zamboanga, Basilan and Jolo.

Even so, the US presence in Western Mindanao continued to be a sensitive issue. The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, for instance, said US troops should leave now that the hostages had been freed.

"There is no need for American troops here unless it's for another agenda, like the establishment of permanent or semi-permanent bases in the country," Bayan said in a statement.

Ediborah Yap, a nurse, was snatched along with dozens of Lamitan residents when the Abu Sayyaf stormed a hospital and church compound here in June last year.

Roman Catholics make up the majority in the town, making it a popular target for the Abu Sayyaf, which wants to create a Muslim state in Mindanao.

A major turning point in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf came Friday when Filipino Scout Rangers attacked a band of bandits holding Yap and the Burnhams.

Gracia Burnham was rescued but her husband Martin and Yap were killed during the rescue operation in nearby Zamboanga del Norte province. The bandits disappeared into the thick jungles.

Linda Collado, 46, a housewife with three children, says she's fed up with the fighting but she sees no end to it yet.

"If it can be done, I hope the bandits are pulverized," she said. "The problem is that they are still around. We don't know where." *AP*

Rock 'n roll wedding for Paul, Heather

From page A1

which the bride wept tears of joy.

The former Beatle went back to his Irish roots to be married in a 17th-century church on the grounds of Castle Leslie near the village of Glaslough in Ireland's rural north.

The village was in County Monaghan, birthplace of McCartney's mother.

Former Beatles drummer Ringo Starr, the only other surviving member of the Fab Four, flashed a "V" sign to photographers as he arrived fashionably late, just before the ceremony was due to begin.

Other celebrities included Sting, Chrissie Hynde of the rock group The Pretenders, Dave Gilmour of Pink Floyd, 1960s fashion icon Twiggy and former Beatles producer Sir George Martin.

Joining them were McCartney's four children—three with his late wife, Linda, who died in 1998 as well as a stepdaughter from her first marriage.

"The ceremony was joyful and moving," McCartney's spokesperson said following the service, which was strictly off limits to members of the world's media.

"Heather captured the hearts of the congregation when, overcome by the emotion of the occasion, she briefly faltered and wept tears of joy whilst making her vows," he added.

Rainy wedding

Mills was, by tradition, a few minutes late for the ceremony, he said.

She entered St. Salvator's chapel to the strains of a bridal march, set to the song "Heather" that McCartney penned for his recent album "Driving Rain."

It indeed rained during most of the wedding day.

Mills wore a fitted ecru lace dress which she designed herself and was given away by her sister Fiona. McCartney's brother M ike was best man.

EX-BEATLE Paul McCartney kisses his bride Heather Mills. AFP

CASTLE Leslie in the village of Glaslough, Ireland, shines in the dark after the wedding of Paul and Heather. AP

Bells rang out for 20 minutes at the chapel where moments earlier the couple tied the knot in a Protestant ceremony.

Some 300 guests were invited to the wedding although McCartney said only around 10 would be celebrities, the others being family and friends.

McCartney wanted the wedding to be a "private family" affair, but photographers and TV crew aboard two helicopters relayed images of the events to the ground, capturing some of the guests mingling around the castle grounds.

Well-wishers camped outside the castle despite the wet weather in the hope of catching a glimpse of the happy couple.

Indian reception

The newlyweds later joined guests at an Indian-themed celebration, expected to last into the early hours of Wednesday.

Vegetarian curry was being washed down with champagne and fine wines, ahead of a lakeside fireworks display.

McCartney, who turns 60 next week, is almost 26 years older than the 34-year-old Mills. He is also one of the world's wealthiest musicians, with a fortune estimated at more than $1 billion.

It was a day of double celebrations in the county's village after Ireland's national football team won a place into the second round of the World Cup in Japan and South Korea.

Cries of "Come on Ireland" echoed out of the local pub where staff from the wedding was allowed to watch Ireland take on Saudi Arabia.

McCartney and Mills turned down a lucrative offer from a magazine for exclusive coverage of the wedding.

Instead, they handed out a picture and asked organizations that wanted to use it to donate to a charity for landmine victims.

McCartney met Mills at a charity awards dinner in 1999. She is an ex-model who had her left leg amputated below the knee after an accident involving a police motorcycle in 1993.

She, too, has wed once before—the marriage ended after two years—and has been engaged several times. *Reuters, AFP*

LEAGUE OF MUNICIPALITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES

Bulacan Chapter
Malolos, Bulacan

AN OPEN LETTER TO HER EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

MADAM PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO:

We, the undersigned Mayors in the province of Bulacan hereby declare:

1. That we sincerely appreciate your Excellency giving solid support to the profound will of the Supreme Court to cleanse the judiciary of what/whom was called "hoodlums in robes;"
2. That we firmly believe that the support of your Excellency to the said will of the Supreme Court will lead to the moral and economic progress of the nation;
3. That the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, Bulacan Chapter has never been alarmed and concerned before and it is because of the systematic sabotage of duly elected mayors wherein unscrupulous elements in cahoots with certain judges and police authorities is trying to subvert the result of the elections by unwarranted filing of electoral protests and working on "hoodlums in robes" in order to achieve their evil end and thereby reversing the expressed will of the electorate;
4. That, some of our judges have arrogated unto themselves the power to overturn the popular will by making losing candidates of the ruling party win upon their sole discretion by: a) defiance of Comelec ruling to inhibit themselves as in the case of Mayor Rolando Salvador; b) defiance of motions to inhibit themselves in the case Mayor Edgardo V. Galvez; c) denying motion requesting the assistance of NBI handwriting experts in the proper appreciation of ballots and closed door appreciation of ballots in the case Mayor Galvez; d) questionable ruling that certain **BALLOTS WERE WRITTEN BY TWO PERSONS** and **GROUPS OF BALLOTS WERE WRITTEN BY SAME PERSON;** e) and many clear case of judiciary manipulations;
5. That the case of one of our colleagues, Mayor Rolando Salvador is a clear showcase of what can the member of the bench do to subvert the will of our people;
6. That we appreciate the efforts of the **COMELEC** in its timely intervention in the case of Mayor Salvador;
7. That ten (10) more duly elected mayors and 'members of the league are in danger of losing their seats due to the will of these unscrupulous judges who use their power under suspicious circumstances to overturn the verdict of the voters;
8. That there is a rapidly growing apprehension among the leaders of NGOs, civic minded citizens and political leaders about this doubtful interventions of these "enterprising" judges because they strike at the heart of the integrity of the electoral process as well as the heart of democracy itself.
9. That we sincerely appreciate the efforts and concern of our beloved Governor Josefina M. Dela Cruz in her fair and laudable decisions and opinions regarding this situation;
10. That we strongly believe, that these "unscrupulous judges" do not represent the rest and majority of our good fair and just members of the bench.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING and in behalf of the people of Bulacan, we respectfully pray that **HER EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES** give further attention and look more closely and urgently to the situation in the province of Bulacan.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE HONORABLE CHIEF JUSTICE HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR. AND THE HONORABLE JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES

HONORABLE CHIEF JUSTICE DAVIDE & HONORABLE JUSTICES:

We, the undersigned Mayors in the Province of Bulacan hereby declare:

1. That under your leadership, the Supreme Court has shown a profound will to cleanse the judiciary of what/whom was called "hoodlums in robes;"
2. That under your leadership, you have never hesitated to apply the law on erring magistrates;
3. That, indeed we know that the Supreme Court has the plenary power to discipline judges on the basis of "res ipsa loqitor" (the thing speaks for itself) as set forth in your Supreme Court Memorandum Circular No. 1;
4. That the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, Bulacan Chapter has never been alarmed and concerned before and it is because of the systematic sabotage of duly elected mayors wherein unscrupulous elements in cahoots with certain judges and police authorities is trying to subvert the result of the elections by unwarranted filing of electoral protests and working on "hoodlums in robes" in order to achieve their evil end and thereby reversing the expressed will of the electorate;
5. That, some of our judges have arrogated unto themselves the power to overturn the popular will by making losing candiates of the ruling party win upon their sole discretion by; a) defiance of Comelec ruling to inhibit themselves as in the case of Mayor Rolando Salvador; b) defiance of motions to inhibit themselves in the case of Mayor Edgardo V. Galvez; c) denying motion requesting the assistance of NBI handwriting experts in the proper appreciation of ballots and closed door appreciation of ballots in the case Mayor Galvez; d) questionable ruling that certain **BALLOTS WERE WRITTEN BY TWO PERSONS** and **GROUPS OF BALLOTS WERE WRITTEN BY SAME PERSON;** e) and many clear case of judiciary manipulations;
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11. That we strongly believe, that these "unscrupulous judges" do not represent the rest and majority of our good fair and just member of the bench.

IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING and in behalf of the people of Bulacan, we respectfully pray that **HONORABLE CHIEF JUSTICE & HONORABLE JUSTICES** of the **SUPREME COURT** of the **PHILIPPINES** give their attention and look more closely and urgently to the situation in the province of Bulacan.

SIGNED this 10th day of June, 2002 here at the Province of Bulacan, Republic of the Philippines.

HON. AMBROSIO C. CRUZ, JR.
Mayor-Guiguinto

HON. FELIX OPLE
Mayor-Hagonoy

HON. REYNALDO CASTRO
Mayor-Balagtas

HON. FELICIANO LEGASPI
Mayor-Norzagaray

HON. LEONCIO DURAN
Mayor-Marilao

HON. OLIVER M. ANDRES
Mayor-Pandi

HON. JAIME VICEO
Mayor-San Rafael

HON. ELPIDIO CASTILLO
Mayor-Pulilan

HON. CARLITO REYES
Mayor-Bustos

HON. ONESIMO JOAQUIN
Mayor-Obando

HON. EDUARDO ALARILLA
Mayor-Meycauayan

HON. LEONARDO DE LEON
Mayor-Angat

HON. EDUARDO VILLANUEVA, JR.
Mayor-Bocaue

HON. SANTIAGO SEVILLA
Mayor-San Miguel

HON. BARTOLOME RAMOS
Mayor-Sta. Maria

HON. EVELYN PAULINO
Mayor-DRT

HON. ROLANDO SALVADOR
Mayor-Baliuag

HON. JAIME VISTAN
Mayor-Plaridel

HON. DOMINADOR GONZALES
Mayor-Paombong

HON. EDGARDO V. GALVEZ
Mayor-San Ildefonso

HON. ANACLETO MENESES
Mayor-Bulacan

HON. DANILO DOMINGO
Mayor-Malolos

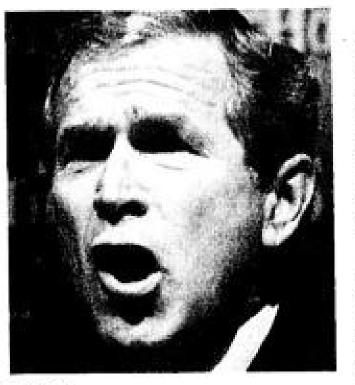
HON. RAMON M. PAGDANGANAN
Mayor-Calumpit & President
League of Municipalities of the Philippines,
Bulacan Chapter

Manhunt on for 'dirty bomb' plotters

WASHINGTON—Nine months after the Sept. 11 attacks, President George W. Bush reassured Americans on Tuesday that he had launched a full-scale manhunt for al-Qaida operatives after authorities captured one "bad guy" accused of planning to set off a "dirty bomb."

Abdullah al Muhajir, an American of Puerto Rican descent born in New York as Jose Padilla, was detained by the FBI in Chicago on May 8, when he arrived from Pakistan. After Bush declared him an "enemy combatant" on Sunday he was transferred to a naval prison in South Carolina.

The FBI said the idea of exploding a dirty bomb in the United States had not got past the planning stages, although there had been "substantial discussions" about it. A dirty bomb involves combining a conventional bomb—even dynamite—with radioactive material.



BUSH

"We will run down every lead, every hint," Bush told reporters after a meeting with congressional leaders at the White House. "This guy, Padilla, is a bad guy. He is where he needs to be—detained . . . And there's just a full-scale manhunt on."

Bush sidestepped a question on whether any of Muhajir's co-conspirators were in custody, saying: "As we run down these, you know, killers or would-be killers, we'll let you know."

"The coalition we put together has hauled in over 2,400 people, and you can call it 2,401 now," he said.

Bush's remarks came as he was preparing to head for Missouri to highlight his administration's efforts to improve intelligence and the work of different agencies to ensure Americans are protected from terrorism.

He planned to make a pitch for his new Homeland Security Department by visiting a Missouri water treatment plant to show that even America's heartland is vulnerable to terrorism.

While pushing his plan to meld a string of federal agencies into a single $37-billion, 170,000-strong behemoth, Bush will also raise funds for Republican Jim Talent, who is in a tight US Senate race to unseat Democratic Sen. Jean Carnahan.

His idea, an aide said, was to highlight his proposal to merge intelligence analysis and infrastructure protection into a single division within the new department and to stress the importance of working with state and local law enforcement. *Reuters*

Al-Qaida suspect's detention hit

NEW YORK—A lawyer for an American accused of plotting a radioactive "dirty bomb" attack on the United States said on Tuesday she is challenging the legality of his detention without charge in a naval brig.

A lawyer for Abdullah al Muhajir, a New York native born Jose Padilla, filed a preliminary action seeking his release with the chief US district judge in Manhattan. Muhajir was initially arrested in Chicago when he got off a plane from Pakistan on May 8. He was brought to New York and then moved to a South Carolina naval brig on Sunday.

US officials on Monday said had been declared an "enemy combatant," and he was shifted to Defense Department custody.

"My client is a citizen," lawyer Donna Newman told reporters. "Nothing has changed with respect to that. The last time I looked at the Constitution, he still had constitutional rights."

"He's not been indicted. There is no complaint," she said.

"He has not been charged but he is being detained."

Although Newman gave the judge a preliminary version of the challenge, the document had not been finalized by late Tuesday and remained under seal. It is expected that it could be completed by Wednesday, at which time it will be made public.

Newman said that she met with Muhajir frequently while he in a high security area at the Manhattan federal prison, but that she had not been allowed to speak with him since he was moved.

She said she could not comment on whether he knew during his New York imprisonment that he was accused of flying to the United States to do reconnaissance for a dirty-bomb attack.

It remains uncertain whether Newman's challenge to Muhajir's imprisonment will remain in Manhattan federal court or be transferred to another jurisdiction. *Reuters*

McVeigh almost forgotten 12 months later

OKLAHOMA CITY—One year ago, Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh was put to death for a fearsome attack on American soil—one of the most hated criminals in US history.

Twelve months later, Timothy McVeigh is an almost forgotten man, his murderous legacy eclipsed by the unparalleled death and destruction of the Sept. 11 attacks.

"While the events that took place here are very critical, the scope and magnitude of Sept. 11 has placed the tragedy of Oklahoma on a different level," said Stephen Sloan, a terrorism specialist and presidential professor of political science at the University Of Oklahoma.

"Sept. 11 raised even broader issues and concerns. The stakes are higher and may obscure what happened in Oklahoma City. History, in a sense, has moved on," he said.

McVeigh's death anniversary was left unmarked in Oklahoma City, where his 1995 attack on the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building killed 168 people and injured hundreds of others.

For many of the victims of the attack, that was just fine.

"If there is anything at all that has brought comfort, it's that McVeigh's name is not in the press all the time. It's been a relief. I'm just glad I won't have to hear about him anymore," said Marsha Kight, whose daughter Frankie Merrill was killed by the explosion where she worked in the building's credit union.

McVeigh, a Gulf War veteran who harbored anti-government views, was captured, tried and convicted of the Oklahoma City bombing—before Sept. 11, the worst terror attack ever on US soil.

On June 11, 2001, McVeigh was strapped to a table in Terre Haute, Indiana and injected with a cocktail of chemicals that ended his life. *Reuters*

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Health group: Fat substitutes don't work

WASHINGTON—Fat substitutes are not helping Americans to lose weight and some may cause problems, the American Heart Association said on Tuesday.

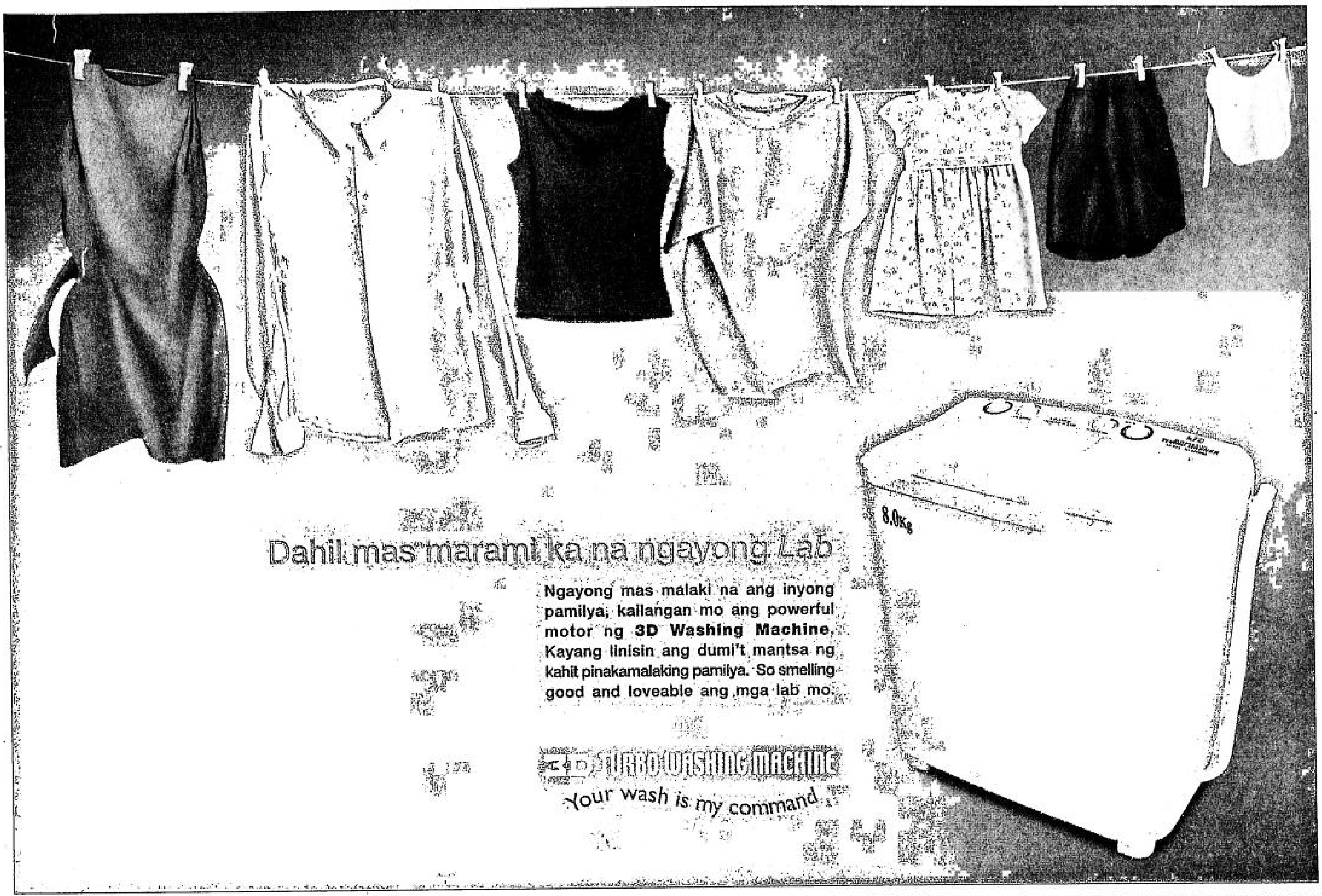
Ninety percent of the US population has tried a low-fat food or fat substitute, but the rate of obesity keeps skyrocketing, the association said.

"The bottom line is that foods made with fat substitutes, used in moderation, may provide some flexibility in food selection, but are not an effective strategy on their own for weight control," Judith Wylie-Rosett, a professor of epidemiology and social medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, said in a statement.

"Often, reduced-fat versions of products have the same or even more calories than their full-fat versions," added Wylie-Rosett, who wrote the statement published in the association's journal Circulation.

The statement cites a government survey that found Americans consumed about 34 percent of total calories from fat in 1991, compared to 40 to 42 percent of total calories in the 1950s. The goal is to get 30 percent or less of calories from fat, and less than 7 percent from saturated fats found in animal products and coconut oil, for example.

"We've done well in getting out the message about reducing fat intake," Wylie-Rosett said. "Now we must put the emphasis on obesity, which has doubled in the last 20 years." **Reuters**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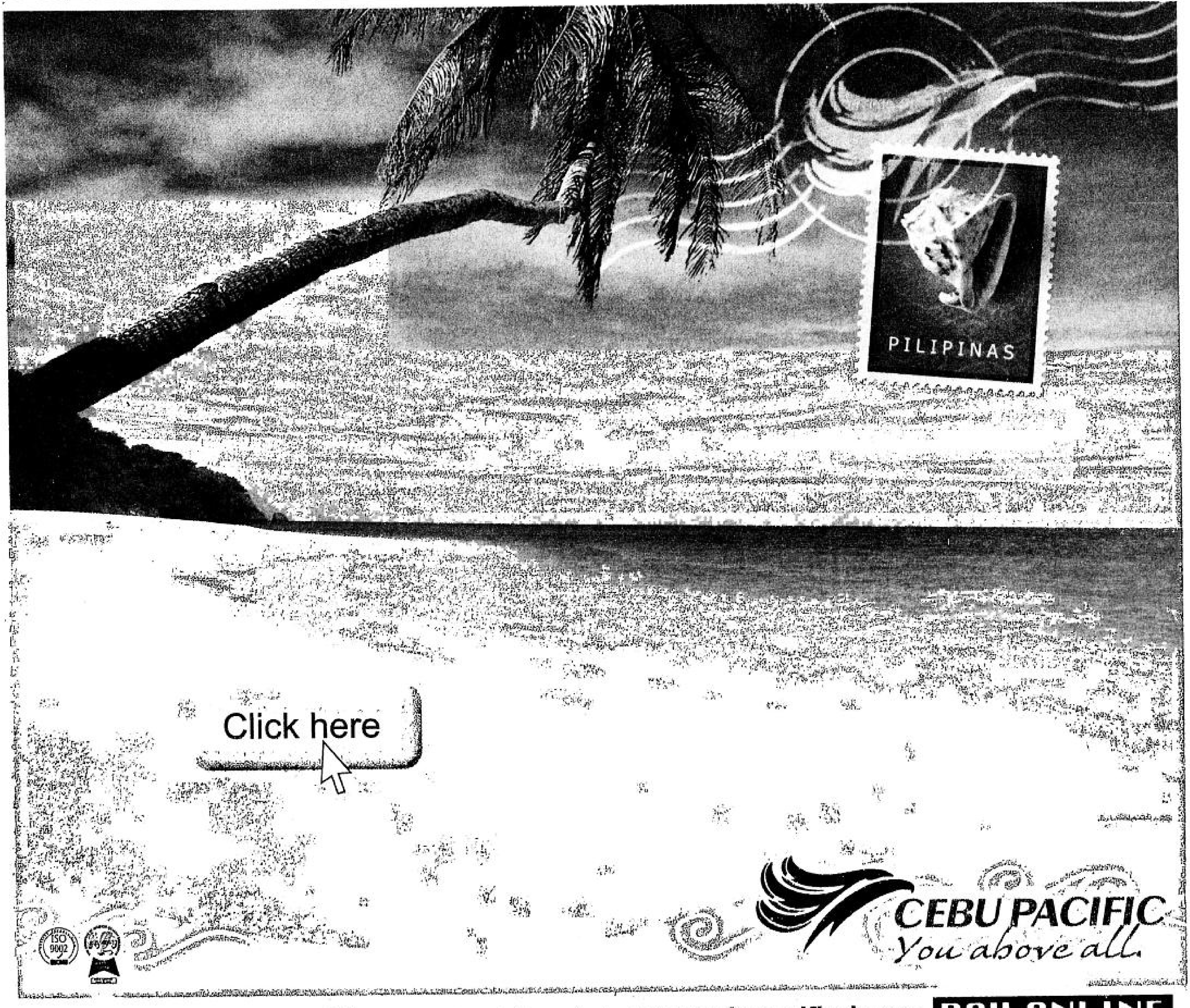

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Palestinian suicide bomber kills girl near Tel Aviv

JERUSALEM—A Palestinian suicide bomber blew up a restaurant in a coastal resort, killing a 15-year-old Israeli girl, while Israeli troops shot dead four armed Palestinians and a 9-year-old boy near a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip.

In all, several violent incidents Tuesday claimed the lives of 10 Palestinians and one Israeli, with 12 Israelis wounded.

The bloodshed came as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was winding up a trip to Washington, where he insisted that Palestinians must stop attacks on Israelis before peace talks begin.

Sharon was to leave Washington on Wednesday after talks with US President George W. Bush and Congressional leaders. Bush pleased Israelis and angered Palestinians by criticizing Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian government.

In Tuesday's suicide attack, the bomber blew himself up in a small restaurant in downtown Herzliya, an upscale city north of Tel Aviv. A 15-year old girl died of her wounds a few hours after the blast, and eight other bystanders were hurt.

Blood was splattered on the front of a food counter after the restaurant's glass doors shattered, spraying broken glass in all directions.

Hours later, half-eaten falafel sandwiches in pita bread still lay on the ground where victims dropped them.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. The Palestinian leadership issued a statement denouncing the attack and saying, "it gives Israel a reason to attack the Palestinian people."

David Baker, an official in Sharon's office, condemned the bombing as "another example of the Palestinians' intention to commit murder for the sake of murder."

In the Gaza Strip, Israeli soldiers shot and killed a 9-year-old Palestinian boy near a Jewish settlement, Palestinian doctors said. An army statement said troops near the Netzarim settlement came under heavy fire from a nearby Palestinian police post and that they returned fire. Soldiers destroyed the police post, an army statement said. **AP**

Israelis build new 'rogue' settlement

JERUSALEM—Israeli settlers have set up a new "rogue" settlement in the West Bank in response to a deadly Palestinian roadside attack, Israel's Yediot Aharonot newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The new "settlement outpost" was set up earlier this week near Sinjil village in the Ramallah area after a young settler was killed in an ambush on May 6.

Settlers carved out a road with bulldozers leading to the rogue settlement, which has been placed under Israeli army protection although it was set up without authorization, Yediot said.

Around 50 such Jewish outposts have been established in the West Bank since right-wing hardliner Ariel Sharon, a supporter of settlements, was elected prime minister in February 2001, according to the settlers' council.

They are made up of a handful of caravans and tents pending more permanent construction.

In March, Israel's left-wing Peace Now movement said there were 34 new settlements composed of 250 buildings that had been constructed in the occupied Palestinian territories since February 2001.

The group conducted an aerial survey showing that most of the new sites were between 700 and 2000 meters from existing settlements.

A study published by human rights organization B'Tselem in May said settlers control nearly 42 percent of the occupied West Bank through a strategic placement of communities and buffer zones. ***AFP***

Algeria bus machinegunned

ALGIERS—An armed group machinegunned a bus killing 11 passengers and wounding 10 late Tuesday at Mèdea, 80 km south of Algiers, residents of the town said.

Reached by phone from Algiers, they said the bus came under attack from Islamists in Takbou, a suburb of Medea.

Elements of the feared Armed Islamic Group (GIA) operate in this region.

On Sunday night two people were killed and one was wounded at a checkpoint set up by an armed group who opened fire on a truck and a taxi near Larbaa, 20 km south of the Algerian capital. The Larbaa district is also a stronghold of the GIA.

The new head of the group, Rachid Abou Tourab, who succeeded Antar Zouabri, killed on Feb. 8 by security forces at Boufarik 35 km south of Algiers, has pledged to continue his predecessor's hard line until an Islamic state is set up in Algeria. ***AFP***

KARZAI speaking before delegates of Afghanistan's Loya Jirga tribal assembly in Kabul June 11. REUTERS

Loya Jirga tries again to appoint new head of state of Afghanistan

KABUL—Afghanistan's tribal assembly will try again on Wednesday to appoint a president after the only declared candidate, interim leader Hamid Karzai, jumped the gun by mistakenly declaring that it had acclaimed him leader.

Karzai's claim—which he later acknowledged to have been an error—added to the confusion and tension surrounding a much-heralded solemn meeting that had already been delayed by a day owing to factional bickering.

The Loya Jirga, a traditional Afghan tribal parliament, is due to appoint a successor to the interim government that took office under a UN-brokered deal after US air power helped opposition forces to drive out the Islamic Taliban.

Former king Mohammad Zahir Shah announced at the opening of the meeting on Tuesday that he did not want to restore the monarchy and was putting his support behind Karzai.

Support for Karzai's campaign also came from former President Burhanuddin Rabbani, who withdrew his candidacy in favour of Karzai.

The ex-king's words were greeted with a wave of applause and it appeared Karzai took this as a signal of being elected—even though no vote had taken place—rather than appreciation for Zahir Shah's statement.

"The situation was confusing for us," Karzai's spokesman Yousuf Nooristani said. "Karzai thought the audience applause meant they were voting for him. Later he found out it was a mistake." ***Reuters***

Al-Qaida cell planning attacks on Nato ships dismantled

RABAT—Moroccan security services have dismantled an al-Qaida cell suspected of preparing attacks against the country and on Nato ships in the Strait of Gibraltar, the interior ministry said Tuesday.

The three members of the cell, who had Saudi passports, have been arrested, the ministry said in a statement released by the official Moroccan news agency MAP. It did not indicate when the arrests were made.

The three were preparing "terrorist acts in the interior of the country" and against western ships transiting the Strait of Gibraltar, the statement said.

It identified the three as Hilal Jaber Aouad Alassiri, Zuher Hilal Mohamed Al Tbaiti et Abdellah M'Sefer Ali Al Ghamdi.

The ministry said the operation, "part of the commitment by the kingdom of Morocco to fight against international terrorism," resulted from cooperation with foreign security services, particularly those of the United States and Saudi Arabia.

Sources close to the investigation earlier said three Saudi nationals resident in Morocco were picked up in mid-May and allegedly "confessed" to planning to use Zodiac .inflatable boats packed with explosives against US and allied warships.

One source said there was an "indirect" link between the suspects and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, blamed for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

In addition to the three Saudis, two women were also in custody, the sources said.

Moroccan intelligence agents arrested the five a month ago after being tipped off by the US Central Intelligence Agency to the group's presence, according to a police source.

Meanwhile a report to be published Thursday in the French weekly L'Express describes a sting operation by the Moroccan intelligence service that dismantled a terrorist group that targeted US and Nato fleets in the Mediterranean.

According to the report, the intelligence agents and royal gendarmerie discovered a group of al-Qaida "sleepers" who were setting up a suicide attack against Nato ships in the Strait of Gilbraltar.

L'Express said they were Saudi nationals who planned to launch their attack from the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla on the Moroccan coast.

Without quoting any sources, the weekly said: "Morocco has very discreetly arrested al-Qaida agents who were preparing to blow up ships of Nato or the American fleet in the Strait of Gibraltar."

The alleged plan resembled a suicide attack against the American destroyer USS Cole in Yemen on October 12, 2000, which killed 17 US servicemen. Responsibility for that attack was claimed by al-Qaida. ***AFP***

Kentucky bishop quits, denies raps

LEXINGTON, Ky.—The bishop of Lexington, Kentucky, said on Tuesday he resigned not because there was any truth to abuse allegations against him but because he wanted to remove a distraction as the US Roman Catholic Church tries to deal with its spreading sex scandal.

The Vatican earlier on Tuesday accepted the resignation of the bishop, the Rev. James Kendrick Williams, the third US prelate hit by sex abuse charges in as many months. The announcement came two days before the country's bishops were to meet in Dallas, Texas, to address the scandal.

"Through agonizing days and sleepless nights, I have thought about the 39 years of my priesthood and the privilege laid upon me," the 65-year-old Williams said.

"I recognize my shortcomings, but I believe that I have been a good priest and bishop. This makes the allegations against me all the more painful," he added.

"I do not want my resignation to give any credence to the allegations made against me. I offered my resignation to the Holy Father, stating that I believe that by my stepping down, the diocese can rid itself of the cloud which hangs over it and me at this time," he said. ***Reuters***

Musharraf: India's gestures not enough

ABU DHABI—Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf said on Tuesday steps taken by India to ease a military standoff between the nuclear-armed Asian neighbours were "a very small beginning" and more action was needed.

Musharraf welcomed an imminent visit by US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, saying Islamabad would do its best to cooperate with the United States to bring about peace.

"It is a very small beginning. I am looking for more action," Musharraf said of India's decision to reopen its air space to Pakistani flights after a six-month ban and its decision to withdraw warships from the west coast of Pakistan.

"We are looking for genuine steps, not peripheral or cosmetic," Musharraf told a news conference in the United Arab Emirates capital Abu Dhabi.

"The real response that we are looking for is initiation of a dialogue . . . on the core Kashmir dispute and all other issues which bedevil relations between Indian and Pakistan," he added.

Musharraf who arrived in Saudi Arabia later on Tuesday held talks with Crown Prince Abdullah on tensions with India and the Middle East conflict, the official Saudi media reported without giving details.

Pakistan and India have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947—two of them over Kashmir. Both conducted nuclear tests in 1998 and both have ballistic missiles.

India has promised further moves if Pakistan takes firm action against Islamic militants blamed by New Delhi for attacks on Indian targets, but Musharraf insisted Pakistan had done "far more than its share" towards easing tensions.

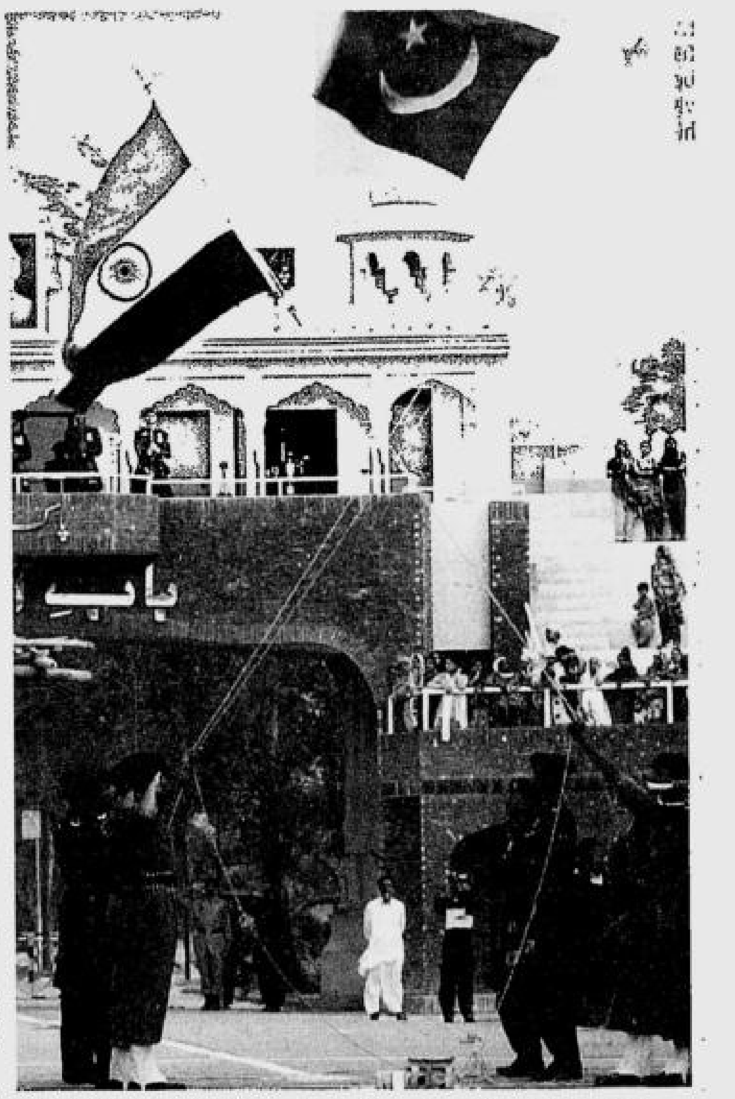
India banned Pakistani commercial overflights on January 1 in a series of diplomatic and military measures triggered by a December 13 attack on India's parliament that New Delhi blamed on Pakistan-based militants.

New Delhi recalled its ambassador from Islamabad and later expelled Pakistan's ambassador after a May 14 raid on an Indian army camp, also blamed on Pakistan-based militants.

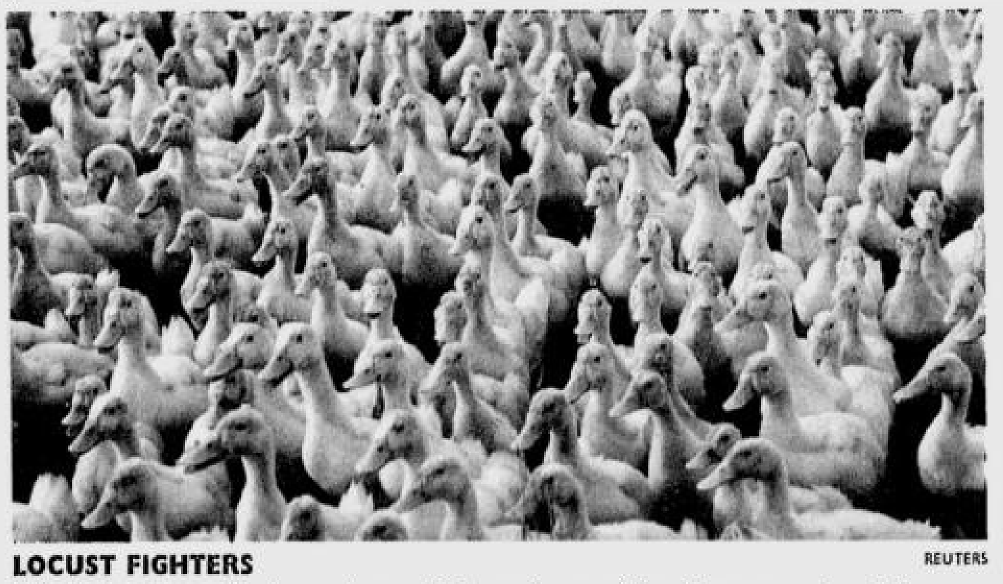
Musharraf hailed the United States for what he called a "very balanced approach" to the crisis.

Rumsfeld began a peace mission to India on Tuesday. He is due to visit Islamabad after talks with Indian leaders.

"We welcome his visit and we will try our best to cooperate in efforts for peace in the region," Musharraf said. ***Reuters***



UNEASY CALM—Indian soldiers (foreground) and Pakistani soldiers (rear, in black) lower their national flags June 11 at the Wagah border crossing in Kashmir. AFP



LOCUST FIGHTERS REUTERS

A flock of ducks waddle down a lane on their way to one of Hanoi's many meat markets. China is enlisting armies of ducks to prevent a plague of locusts engulfing swathes of valuable cropland, but the birds will probably end up in restaurants.

Rich-poor gap in Africa widened substantially during past decade

UNITED NATIONS—During a decade-long UN campaign in the 1990s to promote African development, more than 80 million Africans joined the ranks of the impoverished and the gap between rich and poor increased substantially, according to a UN-appointed panel.

The UN New Agenda for the Development of Africa set a target of at least 6 percent average annual economic growth—but during much of the decade growth in Africa averaged only about 3 percent, "a very disappointing result," the panel's report released Tuesday said.

The panel's independent evaluation blamed a host of factors: Overseas development aid to Africa fell in the 1990s, trade increased very slowly, and efforts to reduce crippling debt had only limited results. The continent's economic crisis was also aggravated by "despotism and corruption" and a proliferation of wars and civil unrest.

The 12-member panel concluded that the UN's New Agenda campaign and other international efforts to promote economic growth and peace in the continent have essentially failed.

Instead of adopting a new UN program for the current decade, it recommended that the United Nations and the international community back Africa's new home-grown program.

The New Partnership for Africa's Development, or Nepad, is an initiative by African leaders to bring peace, democracy, and good government to the continent with a plan to promote development and investment. The seven major industrialized nations and Russia, the so-called Group of Eight, are expected to respond to the initiative at their June 26-27 summit in Canada.

The panel found that Africa made some impressive strides in adopting democracy in the 1990s. But it said progress was greatly hindered by devastating conflicts, the AIDS epidemic, unfavorable markets for African products and a 43 percent drop in development aid from $28.6 billion in 1990 to $16.4 billion in 2000. ***AP***

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Bolinao gets only ₱12M for oil spill

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BOLINAO, Pangasinan--This town was paid a measly P12.5 million by the owners of the oil vessel, MV Nol Schedar, for the oil spill and the damage that the ship caused when it ran aground at the Pudoc reefs here two years ago.

The amount was a far cry from the P200 million that the municipal government had asked in a damage suit it filed against Singapore's Neptune Orient Lines Ltd. and Liberia's Four Seasons Maritime Ltd., the vessel's owners.

It was the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute, which maintains a marine laboratory in this town, that assessed the damage caused by the vessel on the reef system. The UPMSI's monetary estimate became the basis of the damage suit.

Mayor Jesus Celeste said Bolinao officials decided to accept the P12.5 million offered by the owners in an out-of-court settlement because the case, filed at the regional trial court in Alaminos City, "was already dragging."

The municipal government paid P1 million in docket fees and other expenses for filing the damage suit. With the settlement, the Bolinao government actually netted P11.5 million.

Celeste said the ship's owners initially offered P2 million, then increased it to P5 million, to compensate for the damaged reef that is part of the Anda-Bolinao coral reef system.

"I asked for P20 million but the owners refused," he said.

Celeste admitted that the check for the settlement was given to the local government as early as December last year, but the ship's owners asked him not to divulge to reporters anything about the settlement because it would mean an admission of their negligence.

"The payment was in the form of a check ($250,000) and would take months to have it cleared by the bank. The owners could stop the payment if we divulged the settlement to the media. But since the check had been cleared, I can already tell you about it," the mayor told the INQUIRER.

Celeste added that the amount is being spent for the renovation of the Bolinao town hall and to pay some debts of the local government.

When asked if a portion of the settlement would be used to fund the rehabilitation of the damaged reef, Celeste said that task is the responsibility of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

"*Sa* BFAR *na lang yan* (That is BFAR's job)," he said.

The INQUIRER learned that the ship's owners also paid P6 million to the Philippine Coast Guard for clearing the oil spill.

However, the UPMSI, whose 12-hectare mangrove research area at Barangay Pilar and pilot sea urchin culture area at Barangay Victory were affected by the spill, did not receive any compensation.

Army soldier accuses priest of sexual abuse

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—An Army soldier has sought the ouster of a parish priest whom he accused of sexually harassing him in 1996 when he was only 17.

The soldier, now 23, executed an affidavit addressed to Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo in support of his demand for the ouster of Fr. Eleuterio Carton as parish priest of Tigbauan town, 24 kilometers south of this city.

The soldier's mother also issued a separate affidavit in support of his son's accusations against the priest.

Carton denied the allegations, saying he did not even know the soldier.

In a press statement dated June 8, Lagdameo said he convened the Presbyteral Council to "discuss the matter and to decide (on) ways to handle the crisis."

He added that a "necessary pastoral intervention" was in place.

In the two-page affidavit dated May 11, the soldier said that when he was 17 years old, he frequented the convent because he was a friend of some boys his age who were then being sent to school by Carton. It was in these visits that he claimed the priest would "touch" him when they were taking their meals.

Abuse

He also claimed that at one time, while they were swimming in Tigbauan, Carton allegedly touched his crotch. The priest then placed his hand inside the young man's shorts and touched his sex organ.

The soldier claimed that he learned from other boys that they, too, had similar experiences but they kept quiet because the priest allegedly gave them money.

The affidavits of the soldier and his mother were attached to a letter submitted by five members of a group of parishioners that has been seeking the priest's ouster since last year.

The five were Gerrylin Camposagrado, Eusebia Grecia, Lilith Tronco, Leah Arnaiz and Buenaflor Torillo.

They said Carton, among others, committed acts detrimental to the ecclesiastical community and had corrupted the minds and the bodies of his victims.

Incapable

These, they said, render him incapable of performing his duties.

The mother of the soldier, who requested not to be identified, was surprised that Camposagrado's group released their affidavits to the media.

The mother told the INQUIRER that she executed the affidavit for the sole purpose of pressing for Carton's removal.

She added that her son was enraged when he learned that his statements were made public without his permission.

It was not the first time that a group of parishioners in Tigbauan had sought the ouster of Carton.

Last year, the anti-Carton group in the town asked Lagdameo to oust the priest from their parish, citing mismanagement, corruption and politicking.

They also accused the priest of failing to account for donations from the parishioners.

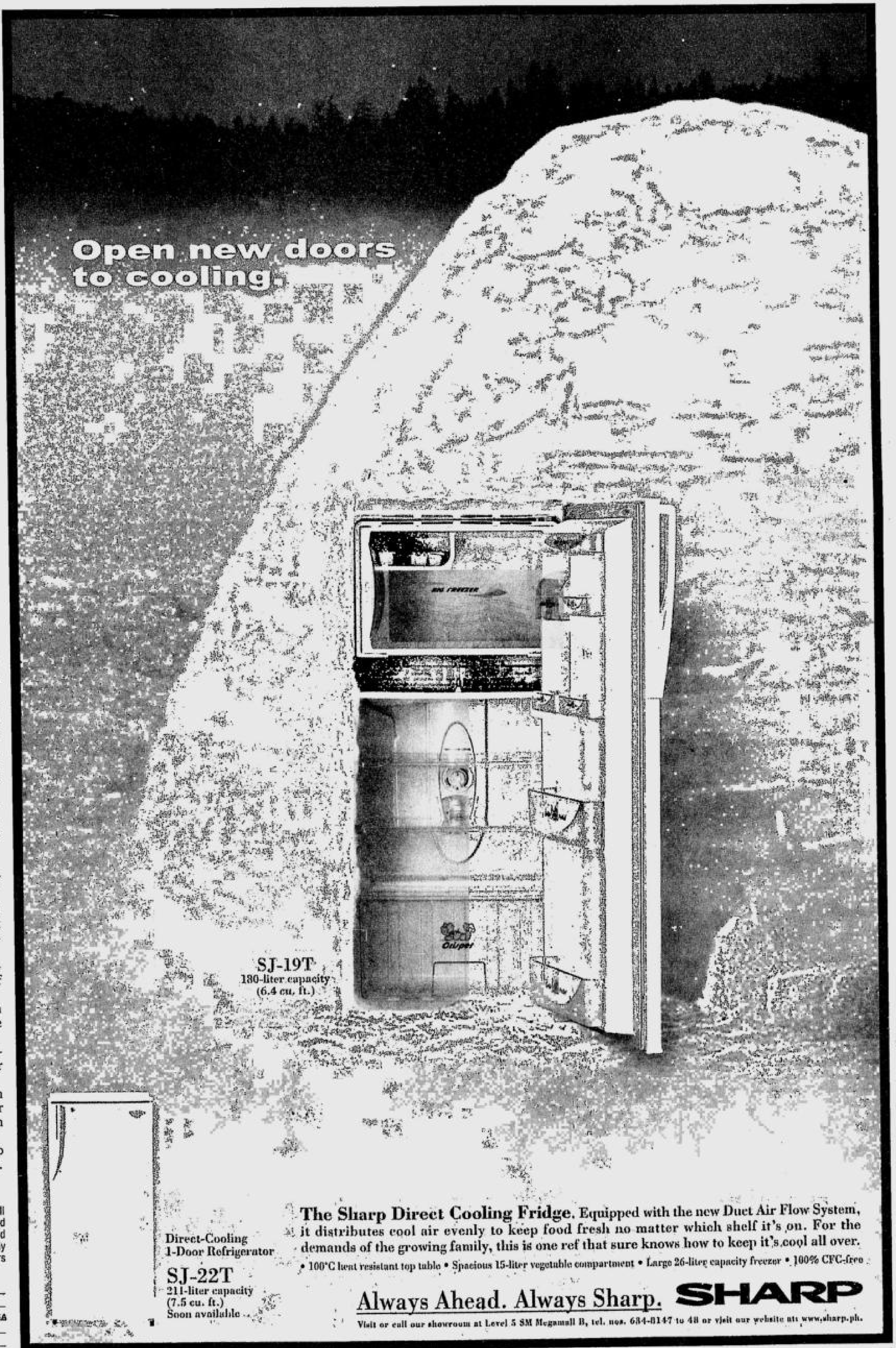
WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Visayas. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI35° Lo25°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 26° Lo16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 36° Lo23°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo24°
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 26°
Calapan	Mostly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo26°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo26°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo26°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 34° Lo26°
Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo25°
Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo26°
Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Davao	Mostly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°

SOURCE: PAGASA

Compiled by: Chona Galang, PDI Research/06/13/02



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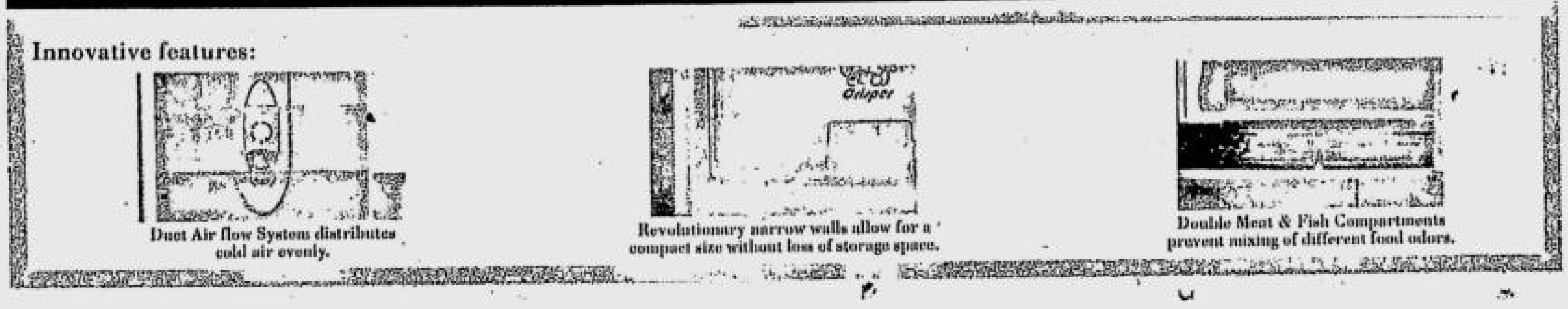

Duct Air flow System distributes cold air evenly.

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Wife, kin of slain ex-solon decry snail-paced case

By Estanislao Caldez
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUGUEGARAO CITY—As in other high-profile cases, the wheels of justice grind slowly in the slaying of former Cagayan Rep. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, his wife and relatives said.

Aguinaldo and his aide, SPO2 Joey Garro, were gunned down near the former congressman's house here on June 12 last year.

Three suspects have been charged with double murder before the Tuguegarao prosecutor's office but two of them are still at large. A third suspect was placed under the custody of his lawyers.

The case is slowly proceeding as the hearings had been reset at least three times since last year when the principal suspect failed to appear in court, said Senior Supt. Romeo Pagaliluan, Task Force Aguinaldo commander and director for operations of the Cagayan Valley police.

The New People's Army claimed responsibility for Aguinaldo's murder. Jose Ma. Sison, founding chair of the Communist Party of the Philippines, affirmed the NPA statement, saying Aguinaldo was killed because of his "blood debts."

"The National Democratic Front (NDF) has declared as just punishment what the NPA in Cagayan Valley did. It's because of his blood debts," Sison told the INQUIRER last year.

Lerma Aguinaldo, widow of Aguinaldo, said she has placed in God's hands the outcome of her husband's case.

Luz Aguinaldo, younger sister of Aguinaldo based in the United States, said she does not expect her slain brother to get justice.

"But whoever killed him, we know that God will make them answer. We are not vengeful. We are learning to adjust to the fate of my brother," she said.

The Task Force Aguinaldo identified the suspects in Aguinaldo's slaying as Gerald Mendoza and Iner Bulusan. Both are at large.

The third suspect, Felix Robregado, surrendered to the National Capital Region police on June 15 last year to deny involvement in the slaying.

"I am not involved in the killing and I came here to clear my name," said Robregado, 27, a resident of Cavite.

He was included as a suspect after the Cagayan police found his University of the Philippines identification card in an apartment rented by alleged communist gunmen following Aguinaldo's assassination in Tuguegarao City.

But Robregado said he lost the ID along with a belt bag while he was doing research among farmers in Cagayan several years ago.

On June 20 last year, Robregado's lawyers, Romeo Capulong and Voltaire Quizon of the Public Interest Law Center, asked for the inhibition of City Prosecutor Emerito Quilang from the preliminary investigation.

The lawyers asked the Department of Justice to assign a special panel to conduct the preliminary investigation of the case. They also asked the court that they be allowed to take custody of Robregado.

The case was later assigned to Judge Lyliha Aquino of the Tuguegarao regional trial court.

Court records showed that Aquino had set a hearing on Dec. 19, 2001 but Robregado failed to appear. The court issued a warrant for his arrest and sent policemen to Cavite but they failed to arrest him.

The prosecutor's office here then filed before Judge Cloribel Purruganan a motion to ask Robregado's lawyers to present him in court. The motion was based on Aquino's motion resetting the hearing to April 12 this year.

The April 12 hearing, however, did not push through because Robregado again failed to appear in court.

It was reset to May 30 but the hearing was again postponed because Purruganan was on leave.

"At this point, the Aguinaldo case is still in square one. It is up to the prosecutors for it to move. Anyway, the witnesses are ready to testify and the evidence is intact," said Pagaliluan.

He said they are pursuing the manhunt for Bulusan and Mendoza.

ROUNDUP

Ex-cop nabbed for shabu

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A former policeman was arrested by elements of the Regional Anti-Narcotics Command (Narcom) 12 during a buy-bust operation here on Monday. Supt. Efren Alcuizar, Narcom 12 chief, said PO2 Arnold Sua, a former member of the city police force, was arrested while he was about to hand over three sachets of shabu to a Narcom agent. On Tuesday, Marilyn Mirasol, another suspected pusher, was arrested near the Makar Port here while handing over six sachets of shabu to an agent.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Suspected robber held

COTABATO CITY—Police on Sunday arrested a man believed to be responsible for the robberies along the Davao-Cotabato highway, the latest of which resulted in the killing of three passengers and two thieves on Saturday. The arrest of Mohammad Abdulkarim, 24, in Pikit, Cotabato on Sunday came following an urgent appeal by Weena bus Cotabato manager Guinaid Adam Jr. for the authorities to help secure their passengers. Adam said in less than two weeks, armed men held up three of their buses in Pagalungan and Pagagawan, Maguindanao. A passenger was killed in one of the robberies. Police said they seized a .9mm pistol from Abdulkarim.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Bet loses hope

DAVAO CITY—A defeated gubernatorial candidate said the election protest he filed might not be resolved, as the row in the Commission on Elections is not over yet despite the appointment of Benjamin Abalos as Comelec chair. Datu Ibrahim Paglas III, who lost to Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Parouk Hussin, said he was no longer hopeful that the election protest he filed will be heard upon and decided by the Comelec officials. "It's too messy at the Comelec. I am not anymore hopeful my case will be resolved," Paglas said.

Marijuana destroyed

BAGUIO CITY—Police in Ifugao destroyed about P40 million worth of marijuana plants and seedlings last week, reports reaching the Cordillera police office said. In a statement, the Cordillera police said the Ifugao police found a two-hectare marijuana plantation in Barangay North Cababuyan in Hingyon town last Thursday. Police uprooted 18,000 fully-grown and 20,000 newly sprouted marijuana plants and destroyed 8,000 seedlings at the plantation.

PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

School ransacked

VICTORIA, Laguna—An elementary school here lost about P200,000 worth of school equipment to robbers over the weekend. Isabelita Cartina, school head of the San Francisco Elementary School, said some of the stolen school property came from donations. They included a new computer unit, a printer, a computer table, two new karaoke machines, a hot and cold water dispenser, curtains and kitchenware. "The robbers took almost everything inside the school principal's room," said Melody Felecio, a teacher.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Fishermen get P1M

UNISAN, Quezon—Rep. Aleta Suarez has donated P1 million as seed money for the Kooperatiba ng mga Samahan ng Pansakahan at Pandagat or Kasikapp, a newly formed fishermen's cooperative. The group is composed of fishermen from 12 towns along the coast of Tayabas Bay and Ragay Gulf. Suarez said half of the money will be allotted for the cooperative's livelihood program. The other half will be spent to buy post-harvest facilities for the group's aquaculture products. Suarez called on the recipient-fishermen to wage a campaign against destructive fishing methods. She also donated a patrol boat to be used in the campaign against illegal fishing.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Bus runs over farmer

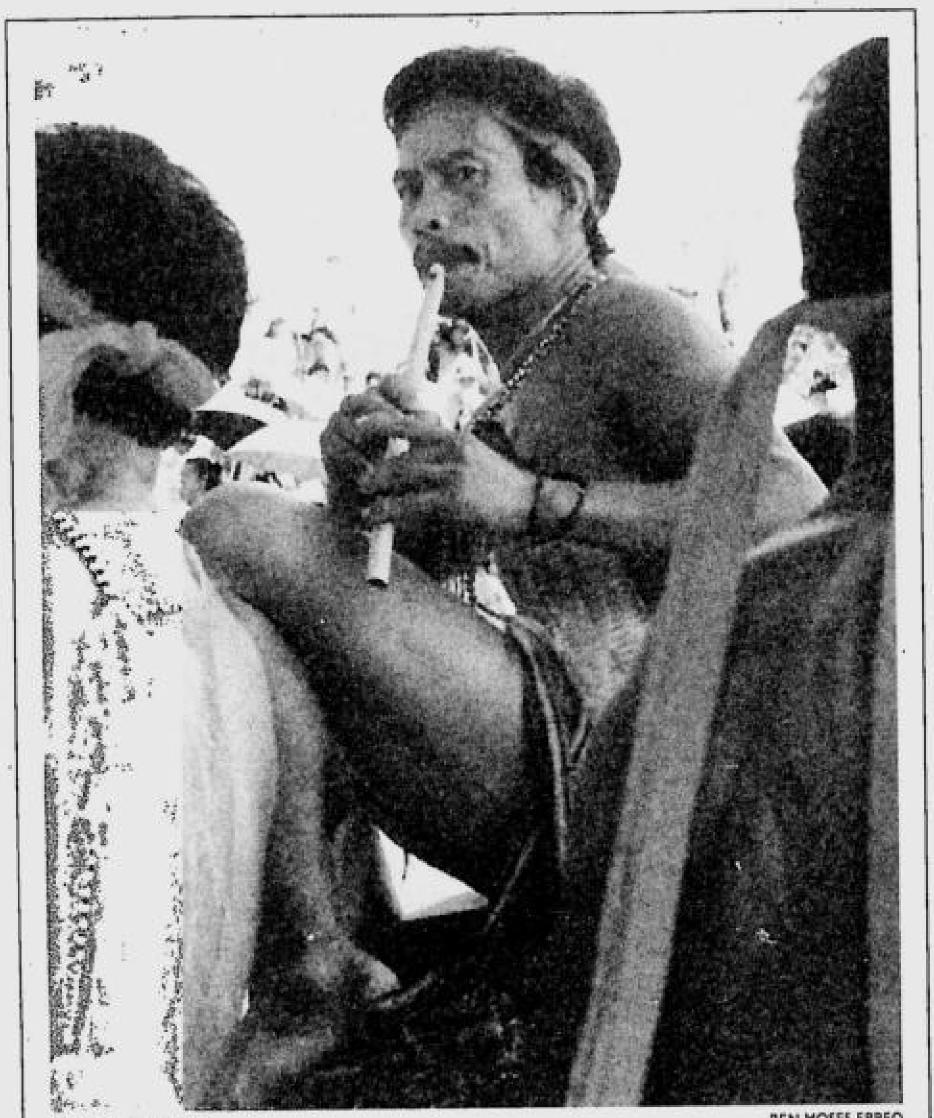
CANDELARIA, Quezon—A Batangas-bound bus ran over and killed a 70-year-old farmer on Thursday in Barangay Sta. Catalina here. The bus driver fled from the scene. Witnesses told the police that a speeding Supreme Bus Liner with body number 111006 hit Isaias Ampil, of Bolboc Batangas when it overtook another vehicle along the San Juan, Batangas–Candelaria, Quezon highway. Ampil died on the spot. Supreme Bus Liner management identified the driver who escaped as Joselito Acorda of Pagbilao, Quezon.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Food poisoning denied

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Hypertension and not food poisoning caused the death of Bauan, Batangas Councilor Francisco Calinao in the Legend Hotel here, according to Legend Hotel manager Susan Ong. Last May 23, the hotel had 209 guests, 97 of which were members of the Vice Mayors' League of the Philippines. Ong said several hotel guests complained of stomach disorder but none of them included Calinao, for he never complained of anything. "He never complained or asked for any tablet at least for stomach pains or diarrhea like the others," the hotel official said.

Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



BEN MOSES EBREO

'MUSIKERO'

A member of the Bugkalot tribe of Nueva Vizcaya demonstrates his musical skills, playing a native flute during a recent tribal festival in the province.

Human rights group says it found mass graves of massacre victims

OZAMIZ CITY—A human rights group has announced the discovery over the weekend of at least three mass graves in the hinterland villages of Roxas town in Zamboanga del Norte.

The graves were believed to contain the remains of at least 25 people who went missing at the height of the government's anti-insurgency drive in the 1980s.

Janeth Cubol, secretary general of the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance (FIND) in Western Mindanao, told the INQUIRER that villagers were instrumental in the discovery of the graves.

Cubol said some of the witnesses have knowledge of the events surrounding the mass graves.

One of the sites reportedly contained the bodies of at least 12 upland farmers who went missing while attending agricultural productivity training programs in 1985.

Villagers told FIND that the farmers were mistaken for New People's Army cadres by troops of the Philippine Constabulary.

The other mass graves allegedly contained the remains of 13 other persons who were also allegedly executed by soldiers.

Cubol said FIND was withholding some information about the graves while preparations were under way to exhume the remains found in the graves.

"Our staff (members) are still finalizing documentation work in the villages containing the graves, as well as gathering important bits of information from the families of (the) victims (of the massacre)," she said.

Cubol said FIND also wants to protect the graves.

"We don't know. Some persons involved in the massacre might think of destroying these very important pieces of evidence against them," she said.

In Tarragona, Davao Oriental, the family and colleagues of a Protestant pastor, who disappeared at the height of the government's drive against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front there in 2000, has reiterated their call to the military and the police to locate the missing minister.

Balugo Cartajena, 49, a pastor of the Missionary Baptist Church here, was last seen in Barangay Ompao on July 27, 2000.

The MILF allegedly maintains a camp in the village, which was one of the sites of conflicts in Davao Oriental.

"We reported the incident to the military and police as soon as we found out he was missing (in 2000) but they did not take any action. Perhaps they were preoccupied then with the drive against the MILF," Pastor Severino Mabaguio said.

Both Cartajena's family and his colleagues believe that he was caught in the crossfire during the anti-MILF drive ordered by then President Joseph Estrada. ***Ryan Rosauro and Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Coal firm files appeal to stop municipality from collecting taxes

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

SAN JOSE, Antique—Asia's biggest coal corporation has moved to block the implementation of a ruling of an Antique court that ordered it to pay more than P113 million in real property taxes to Caluya town.

The Semirara Coal Corp. (SCC) filed a motion of reconsideration before the Court of Appeals on its decision dismissing the SCC's earlier petition to annul the judgment of the Regional Trial Court Branch 13 of Culasi, Antique.

The firm also sought the issuance of a temporary restraining order pending resolution of its motion.

The SCC, now known as Semirara Mining Corp., is owned by D.M. Consunji Inc. For more than 20 years, it has been operating the biggest coal mine in Asia on the 5,500-hectare Semirara Island, one of the nine islands comprising Caluya town.

In its 18-page motion, the SCC asked the CA to reconsider its March 26 decision dismissing the firm's petition to annul the judgment of the RTC Branch 13 issued on Dec. 16, 1999.

In a 15-page ruling, the RTC Branch 13 presided then by Judge Antonio Natino, ordered the SCC to pay real property taxes from Jan. 1, 1992 to Dec. 31, 1996 to Caluya town amounting to P22,173,361.13.

Damages

The judge also ordered the firm to pay an additional P150,000 in damages.

He also ordered the SCC to pay the municipality real property taxes annually from Jan. 1, 1997 "and the succeeding years thereafter . . ." based on the appraisal of the Caluya municipal treasurer.

The order was modified on Sept. 7, 2000 in a resolution of acting presiding Judge Nery Duremdes who denied the SCC's appeal to nullify Natino's ruling.

Duremdes increased the SCC's liability by ordering it to pay interest at the rate of "two percent per month, but not to exceed 36 months, on its unpaid real property taxes commencing on April 1, 1992 or when such taxes became due and until they shall have been fully paid."

Based on Duremdes' resolution and the assessment of the municipal treasurer of Caluya, the SCC's liabilities including penalties reached P113,540,539.07 as of year 2000.

Reconsideration

In its motion for reconsideration in the CA, the SCC reiterated its earlier argument that the decision and resolution of the Antique court are "void" for lack of jurisdiction.

The firm said the lower court ordered the SCC to pay real property taxes to Caluya town representing an amount that the town is not claiming.

It cited that in the complaint filed by Caluya town, the municipality claimed unpaid taxes of only P22,173,361.13.

The SCC also claimed that it was "unduly deprived of its right to due process of law" because its former legal counsel committed "gross negligence" in handling the case.

The company, now represented by the law firm Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc and De los Angeles, cited the failure of its former lawyer to file its petition for review with the Supreme Court within the required 15-day period.

Co-op chief sues NEA head

THE GENERAL manager of the Aklan Rural Electric Cooperative (Akelco) has sought the preventive suspension of the administrator of the National Electrification Administration (NEA) for what he called "unreasonable, oppressive, whimsical and capricious" attempt to suspend him without due process and without any complaint.

In a statement, Leovegildo Mationg, general manager of the Akelco, complained before the Office of the Ombudsman that Fr. Francisco Silva, NEA administrator, violated his constitutional rights when Silva tried to kick him out of Akelco without authority from the NEA board.

Akelco is the private electric cooperative that supplies power to Aklan and parts of Antique and the tourist destinations Kalibo and Boracay.

Mationg filed his complaint on May 13 at the office of the Ombudsman.

In his complaint against Silva, Mationg alleged that the NEA administrator forcibly took over the cooperative on April 2 and removed him as general manager without due process and without a complaint being filed against him.

Mationg asked the Office of the Ombudsman to preventively suspend Silva so he may not be able to use the powers of his office to his advantage.

ARMM execs claim forgery in measure on fund release

COTABATO CITY—A group of legislators in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has alleged that their signatures were forged in connection with a resolution asking the Department of Budget and Management to release at least P75 million for the implementation of projects in the impoverished region.

The complainants, who requested anonymity pending the resolution of a civil case on the issue, said the signatures that appeared on Resolution No. 218 of the Regional Legislative Assembly (RLA) were not theirs.

"This is highly anomalous, a serious, criminal offense and a dangerous precedent if allowed to continue," a Tausug assemblyman commented.

Another lawmaker said they could not have possibly affixed their signatures on the controversial resolution "passed on April 4 because there was no session on that day."

RLA Speaker Umbrah Datumanong, however, denied there was forgery.

"We had a meeting where we discussed RLA Resolution 218 and those in attendance signed it," Datumanong told the INQUIRER on Monday.

He said the retraction by some assemblymen could be attributed to a civil case filed against the 22-member RLA on May 29 by aggrieved Metro Manila-based contractors Nancy Torres of Cenan Construction and Trading and Irineo Concepcion of Jalair Trading and Manufacturing.

The plaintiffs were asking the court to restrain the DBM and the Land Bank of the Philippines from disbursing the P75 million to the ARMM autonomous government unless the intended beneficiaries of the amount shall have been legitimized.

The funds were intended for the assemblymen's District Impact Projects (DIA). The DIA is akin to the pork barrel allocations of congressmen and senators.

Under the DIA, the national government has allocated P125 million. The DBM, on Sept. 27, 2001, released some P50 million of the funds "to cover mobilization cost."

In September 2001, the autonomous government identified the construction firms that it has contracted for the P125 million worth of projects, which included construction of roads, bridges, school buildings and other community-based structures.

These were Cenan Construction, Jalair Trading, BRE Construction, Curve-Line Construction, Minrock Multi Builders, FFJ Construction and Empire Construction.

But after the list of contractors was finalized, former RLA Speaker Alvarez Isnaji, who was then acting governor, named three other contractors.

Isnaji's action had dislodged Cenan Construction and Jalair Trading from the master list.

Isnaji's request prompted DBM Manila on Oct. 10 to asked for an official verification of the changes and "submit valid reasons for the requested change of creditors." ***Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◆ Bureau Chief **Floreño G. Solmirano**

Balayan readies longest 'lechon' line

By Mei Magsino
Balayan, Batangas

WITH its 10-day festivities that have brought pride and fame to it, Balayan town in Batangas is now shooting for the stars with a possible entry to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Balayan expects at least 200 *lechon* parading on its streets for a world record for longest line of roasted pigs to ever showcase a festival of thanksgiving.

The goal is reachable, according to Filoteo Maningat, president of the Hermandad San Juan Bautista Organization.

Last year's parade drew more than 100 *lechon*, he said.

Festival activities will run from June 14 to 24.

The parade of *lechon* dates back to 1907, but only in Barangays 1 to 4 in the western part of the town, where most of the residents earn a living as butchers.

It all began on June 24, 1907 when a family roasted a pig to celebrate the graduation of its eldest son from college. The family decided to go to the beach and feast on the *lechon* in the thanksgiving for the good fortune and hard-earned diploma.

Neighbors saw two men carrying the roasted pig and walking toward the beach. They followed as if a parade was in progress.

Since then, whenever a family member graduates, a *lechon* is paraded in town and ended up being feasted on at the beach by family members and guests.

More and more people have joined the June 24 parade, bringing *lechon* with them not only in celebration of a college graduation but also as an offering of thanksgiving for all the graces they have received over the past year.

Also held in time for the parade is the *buling-buling* or water festival in honor of the town's patron saint, San Juan Bautista, known for his baptism of water.

When the people of Balayan saw the festive atmosphere in the four barangays, the entire town adopted June 24 as its feast day and the *parada ng lechon* and the *buling-buling* as its own merrymaking events.

At the start, the *hermano mayor* was in charge of the festivities. When the beach became polluted, the roasted pigs were no longer brought there but eaten downtown.

Mouth-watering

As more and more mouth-watering *lechon* are paraded each year, onlookers are allowed to partake of a small chunk or *kutib* of the crackled delicacies during the parade.

The *kutib* later became bigger. Some people became so emboldened that they would come to the parade with bolos and chop off half of the *lechon* to bring home. Others brought big cooking pans for the big cuts.

Such abuses turned the parade into one big embarrassment. The *lechon* would reach the church for blessing already in pieces, mostly with just the heads remaining.

This prompted municipal officials to pass an ordinance prohibiting onlookers from cutting the *lechon* on parade into pieces. The law allows them to simply partake of a chunk for tasting.

The ordinance was finally implemented two years ago. The Hermandad San Juan Bautista was also formed to organize the festival on June 14-24.

All of the town's 48 barangays join the parade, except for Barangays 1 to 4, where the tradition originated and the main activities of the yearly fiesta are held.

Bonus

Decorating the *lechon* has also been a bonus for the onlookers since the search for the best decorated *lechon* began. The pigs on parade are dressed in gowns, made-up and appeared like people.

Last year's best-decorated *lechon* looked like a Barbie doll.

According to Maningat, the contest was also one way of preventing spectators from mutilating the *lechon*.

During the festival, it is a common practice among residents to invite strangers to join them in their dining tables to eat food specially prepared for guests.

This tradition is said to bring more good luck to the host family. The more food the stranger partakes of, the more good fortunes would be expected.

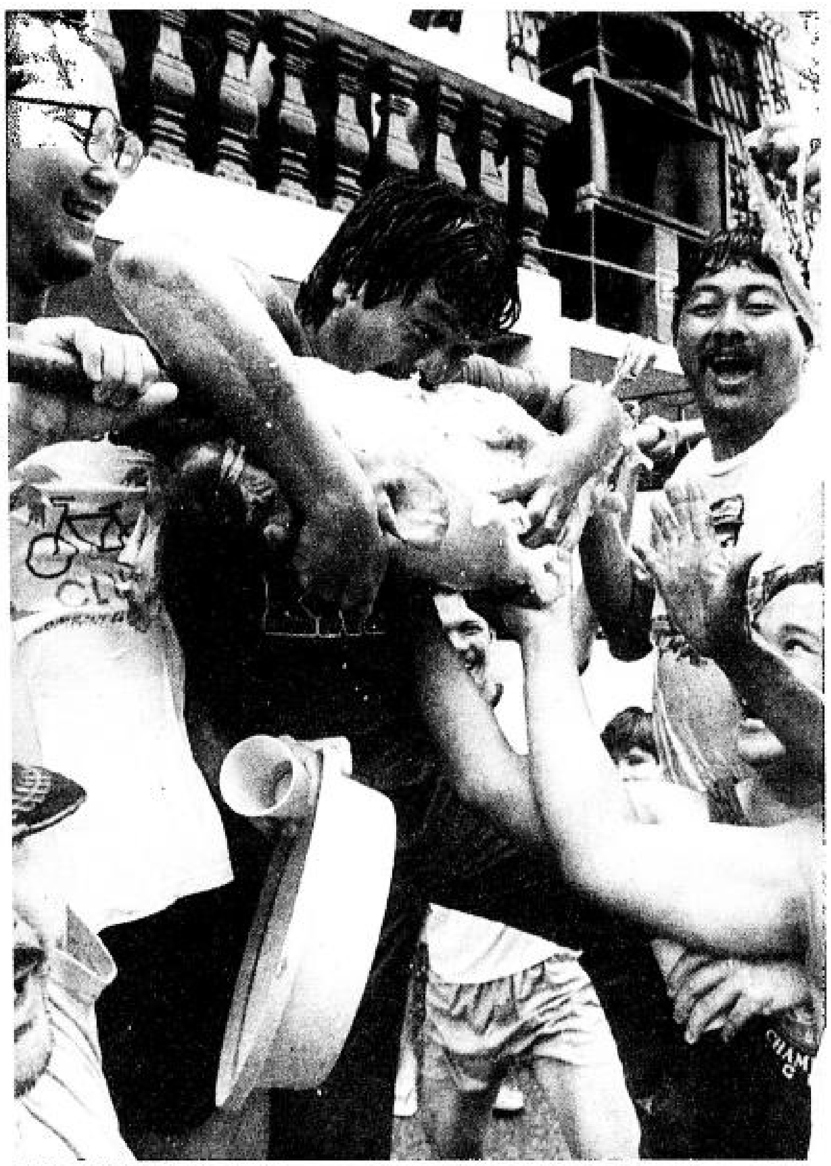
After the parade comes the traditional street party in Barangays 1 to 4. People gather to celebrate thanksgiving, get wet, drink beer and eat *lechon* until the wee hours of the next day.

Although the number of participants in the festivities has grown, there has never been one instance when people have been hurt or killed in the province's biggest event.

"That's because when thanksgiving is in the air, and the people are in high spirits . . . nobody thinks of doing anybody harm," Maningat said. "It's all for fun."

During the parade, it's a rarity to get a good photo.

Even photographers are splashed with water. As a result, they forget their profession for a day and just enjoy the festival and street party.



RESIDENTS of Balayan, Batangas, feast on a roasted pig during the town's rowdy fiesta celebration in honor of St. John the Baptist. FILE PHOTO

Will real 'oragon' please stand up?

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Naga City

THE MOST distinct symbol that Bicolanos are associated with today is the word *oragon*. Expressed in true Bicolano intonation, *Ó-ràh-gon* grabs the attention of listeners and incites curiosity.

A local historian asserted that the word *oragon* "has possible philosophical" or "ethical implications that could unravel the underlying cultural world view of the Bicolanos."

Prof. Danilo Gerona, who pioneered in the interpretation of facts from documents from the point of view of a Bicolano, examined the root word *orag*, from which *oragon* was derived.

He said *orag* existed long before the Spaniards conquered the Bicol peninsula. It referred to the exemplary sexual prowess of a *dato* (tribal chieftain) who was believed to be a repository of natural and supernatural powers, he said.

Gerona asserted that the political leadership bestowed by a community on a *dato* was not only acquired through inheritance but also through the display of *kaoragan* (lifetime achievement).

And being an *oragon*, one must also possess unusual courage.

Browsing in libraries in Spain, Gerona found documents showing how *orag* was used during the Spanish period.

The late 16th-century dictionary by Fray Marcos de Lisboa, the pioneering lexicographer in Bicol, defined *orag* as *deshonestidad o lujuria*.

Gerona said *deshonestidad* could mean dishonesty or immodesty, and *lujuria* could be translated as lustful.

Another document, he said, was the 1684 collected sermons of Fray Pedro de Avila, a Franciscan missionary, who spoke of *oragon* in alluding to prostitutes.

Gerona claimed that the Spanish friars used the negative connotation of *oragon* to discredit and weaken the political clout of the *datos* who were leaders of the resistance to the Spanish Crown.

During the golden jubilee of the Ateneo de Naga, an alumnus proudly wore a batch T-shirt that said: *"Ini an oragon. Arogon an oragon,"* which means "this is an achiever. Emulate the achiever."

But a group of young Ateneans made fun of the praise and added: *"Oragan an oragon,"* which means "Punish the achiever."

"The juxtaposition of the words *oragon*, *arogon* and *oragan* reveals the Bicolanos' profound semantic diversity and cultural ambiguity which center on the word *orag*," Gerona said.

He said, however, that unlike during the Spanish period when *orag* was always associated with vice or immorality, today the word has gradually acquired a variety of implications, even more positive ones.

In the '80s, a Bicolano newsmagazine took the word *Oragon* as its name.

"This is something unthinkable in the 19th century," Gerona said. "Indeed, in contemporary setting, the word *oragon* is increasingly associated with achievements though it is still confined to the male gender."

On Dec. 30, 1999, to celebrate a milestone at the turn of the 21st century, local radio station dzGE honored outstanding Bicolanos by giving the Millennium Oragon Award.

Gerona concluded that with whatever meaning it now carries, *orag*, *maorag* or *oragon* have definitely become the most favorite symbols of the best in the Bicolano.

EMPOWERING THE YOUTH

Palawan program brings art to the poor

By Diwa Aquino
Contributor

THE SCORCHING heat of the sun failed to break the spirit of the more than 20 travelers who cramped themselves into a dump truck that traversed the rocky road to a sitio of Aborlan town in western Palawan.

They did not mind the stench of sweat. Their faces radiated with happiness as they looked forward to sharing their knowledge to the less fortunate.

Nature consoled the weariless wayfarers. The cool refreshing mountain breeze greeted them as they approached the village.

The travelers represented the Aborlan Arts Program (AAP), a non-profit organization that teaches out-of-school youth various forms of art that they can use to improve their living conditions and support their formal education.

Outreach

The community outreach program (Cop) is one of the major components of the AAP. Unlike other programs that give donations and conduct medical missions, the AAP focuses on teaching art as a tool for empowering the youth to shape a better future for themselves and their families.

The Cops are conducted in the depressed areas of Aborlan.

The AAP staff members, alumni and graduating students of the program traveled all the way to Sitio Bubusawen to conduct a three-day art workshop on May 21-24 for the Tagbanua youths, aged 12 to 25.

More than 40 actively participated. A number of adults also joined the activities.

The workshop was free of charge and the program provided all the materials used. Under the shade of a cashew tree, the AAP alumni and students shared how the program helped them harness their talents that changed their lives.

Many students in the first batch have already attended art conferences and exhibited their works in various parts of the country. Hence, the AAP has shown them a window to the world.

Before the AAP facilitators proceeded to the day's activity, house rules were laid. Self-discipline, division of time and concentration, respect for others, cleanliness and a joyful attitude were among the rules that the participants and even the facilitators had to adhere to.

Indeed, the COP not only harnesses skills and creativity but also develops personalities and a positive attitude toward oneself and others.

Skills

On the first day of the workshop, the participants were taught the process of tie-dyeing. When they returned in the afternoon, almost everyone was wearing colorful shirts that they themselves made.

The entire afternoon and the second day were spent making beads out of terra cotta clay.

The participants were able to make functional art pieces such as mini jars, soap and candle holders, and ashtrays, among other items.

The last day was spent making giant papier-mache masks.

The participants showed a high level of creativity and hard work. Their eagerness to learn was apparent in their output.

The community also showed interest and enthusiasm during the workshops. They never came late and expressed willingness to support the activity and the program, in any way they could.

They also encouraged their children to learn from, focus on and cooperate with the AAP facilitators for them to have a better grasp of what was being taught.

Tough

Sitio Bubusawen is one of the areas that development and modernization have yet to reach. Each of the AAP staff members, alumni and students had to deal with various concerns such as lack of electricity, little water and a cramped classroom.

One had to be contented with the flickering gas lamps, twinkling stars and moon as the only sources of light.

At first, the darkness made the AAP staff members uncomfortable, especially in preparing food, but it did not hinder them from doing their duties and having fun. They were able to cope by cooking earlier, when the sun was still up.

They also found joy in sharing stories with each other under the moonlight. The available light cast shadows and silhouettes of nipa houses, trees and landscapes that reveal the beauty of Bubusawen, even with the absence of development.

All the male staff fetched water from the river, which was about a kilometer away. Water from the spring and the river was boiled for drinking.

Cramped room

The cramped classroom where everyone slept made the AAP staff members treat each other as part of one family and nurtured a spirit of camaraderie.

Laughter was never lost amid all the inconveniences. The joyful attitude of the AAP personnel, cooperation among members and participants, and support from the community made the outreach program a success and a wonderful experience to remember.

Any form of discomfort was nothing compared to the desire of everyone to share knowledge and to learn from each other.

THE AUTHOR is a volunteer of the Aborlan Arts Program. She used to be a writer for the Palawan Tropical Forestry Program based in Puerto Princesa City.

YOUNG artists show their works during the opening of the 2nd Annual Art Exhibition last month. Proceeds from the sale funded their education. DIWA AQUINO

We could all be heroes like Debbie–GMA

From page A1

ond returned P6 million that had been inadvertently added to her meager pay check.

"We do not have to dig into history to realize that heroes abound in the country," Ms Macapagal said.

Early in the morning, Ms Macapagal led the flag-raising ceremony in Yap's hometown of Lamitan in Basilan. It was a first in Philippine history, the tradition being that the President kicks off Independence Day rites with a flag-raising ceremony at the Rizal Park.

Similar ceremonies were performed simultaneously in six historic sites—the Rizal Park; Aguinaldo Shrine in Kawit, Cavite; Barasoain Church in Malolos, Bulacan; Pinaglabanan Memorial Shrine in San Juan; Cry of Balintawak Monument in Caloocan City; and Mausoleo de los Veteranos de Revolucion at the North Cemetery in Manila.

After the flag raising, the President immediately flew back to Manila for the traditional *vin d'honneur* in Malacañang with members of the diplomatic corps.

In the afternoon, thousands of dancers and marchers, made up mostly of government employees and members of civic groups, made up for the small number and simplicity of the floats at the Independence Day Parade at the Quirino Grandstand.

Abu Sayyaf

For the second year in a row, the Abu Sayyaf figured prominently in the President's Independence Day message.

In her speech at the Quirino Grandstand, she said the bandits would not find respite because they no longer had hostages. "This is it. This is now the chance to show to all terrorists that they cannot escape from justice," she said.

Last year, the President spoke of the "overflowing" anger of the people against the bandits, who beheaded US hostage Guillermo Sobero as a grisly Independence Day "gift" to her.

Sobero and the Burnhams were the three Americans among the 20 people abducted by the Abu Sayyaf from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan on May 27, 2001.

The Burnhams, both missionaries, were held hostage for over a year in Basilan until government forces caught up with the Abu Sayyaf in the Zamboanga del Norte jungle on June 7. Martin Burnham and Yap, who was abducted when the Abu Sayyaf entered Lamitan on June 2, 2001, were killed in the firefight.

Gracia Burnham, who was wounded, flew back to the United States on Monday.

"My countrymen, these terrorists sowed turmoil and it is proper that they should suffer from the righteous anger of the people, our soldiers and even civilians," the President said yesterday.

"Nobody brought the reign of poverty, turmoil and fear in Basilan and other areas in Southwestern Philippines except these terrorists," she said.

The President also said that while "we have friends from all over the world," the fight to finish off the Abu Sayyaf was principally a battle to be waged by Filipinos.

"As we have shown time and again, it is the Filipino who can love the Philippines so much as to lay down his life," she said.

Ms Macapagal said that while national heroes like Rizal "consciously answered" the call of heroism, others like Yap "answered that call though nothing in their lives had warned them that they would have to do it."

She said Yap had become "one of the leading patriots of our time," having "stuck to her professional oath even in the darkest depth of adversity."

Yap was "telling us that civic duty comes ahead of personal gain," the President said. "Many would find it difficult to believe that this is happening in the Philippines."

At the *vin d'honneur* in Malacañang, Ms Macapagal said Yap's death should challenge the country to end the terrorism of the Abu Sayyaf.

"We must do it and we can do it, especially now that the threat of coups has been banished and we can consolidate our efforts in law and order," she said. "We are buoyed by a new resolve to restore political and economic stability."

No-shows

The absence of certain personalities at the *vin d'honneur* was acutely felt.

Among those who did not show up were Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, and former Presidents Fidel Ramos and Corazon Aquino.

Guingona is in Rome, attending the World Food Summit, while Ramos is reportedly in Guam. Ricciardone and Aquino reportedly sent their regrets.

Protocol requires that Guingona, as secretary of foreign affairs, and his wife assist the President and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in receiving the members of the diplomatic corps led by Papal Nuncio Archbishop Antonio Franco. Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin and his wife stood in for the Guingonas.

Ricciardone sent Michael Anderson, head of the US Embassy's public information department, in his stead.

The ambassador or *charge d'affaires* of the countries represented were called one by one to the stage, where they shook hands with the First Couple and the Ebdalins.

Even the heads of international organizations based in the country were acknowledged. But the US Embassy representative did not merit an acknowledgment.

If she noticed the absences, the President did not show it as she breezed through the formal affair that promptly began at 11 a.m.

After the perfunctory toasts—first by the President and then by the papal nuncio—Ms Macapagal happily mingled with her guests.

Elsewhere, Sen. Edgardo Angara called on his colleagues to ensure an independent Senate and "break free from the puppet strings of Malacañang."

"Like the Filipinos of the 1898 revolution, the Senate must declare its independence and be free from outside interests in order to perform its mandated functions," the opposition senator said.

"With an independent Senate, we can perform our graft-busting function in the government. We can concentrate on bringing more focused legislation for the good of the country, and not just for the interests of the Palace," he added.

Austere parade

For the second straight year, an austere parade marked the Independence Day celebrations.

About 20 floats went past the Quirino Grandstand, featuring historic events, tourist spots, government agencies, local government units and even private firms such as SM and WG&A.

While in the past contingents had more than one float, now they had just one each and others had none. But the collective color and enthusiasm of the participants succeeded in conveying national pride.

The Armed Forces, which showed off its tanks, amphibious vehicles and artillery in previous June 12 parades, chose to parade its engineering equipment, made up of graders, bulldozers and payloaders.

But the large number of smartly dressed soldiers from the three major AFP commands, complete with a marching band, somehow made up for the absence of the tanks and the fly-by of Air Force jets.

The Department of Agriculture contingent, which brought about a dozen "kneeling" carabaos from Pulilan, Bulacan, drew cheers from the crowd.

Among the government officials and dignitaries who joined Ms Macapagal at the grandstand were Senate President Franklin Drilon, Secretaries Richard Gordon (tourism), Jose Lina (interior), Heherson Alvarez (environment) and Jose Isidro Camacho (finance), and Ambassador Franco.

The crowd—thousands of war veterans, workers from the Port Area, picnickers, and strollers—lined Parade Avenue and endured the harsh afternoon sun.

The cultural portion of the parade, which tourism reporters dubbed "Gordon's show," appeared like a "Visit the Philippines" advertisement.

Each region, province or city featured its own "wealth of wonders," including historic landmarks and local dances.

Military and police personnel in the area briefly stood on alert when a loud explosion was heard from the float from Daraga, Albay. It turned out that the smoke-generating device in the miniature Mayon Volcano on the float had failed to function. The explosion ripped the top of the paper-and-wood replica.

Amused, the crowd cheered good-naturedly at the "realistic" explosion. ***With reports from Jerome Aning, Norman Bordadora and Cynthia D. Balana***

RP backs World Day vs Child Labor

By Blanche S. Rivera

YESTERDAY'S 104th Independence Day celebration was made doubly significant with the Philippines joining the International Labor Organization in the declaration of the first ever World Day against Child Labor.

Around 300 people, including child workers and representatives of the local ILO office and the National Child Labor Committee, took part in the activities at Fort Santiago in Manila.

The ILO, which has an ongoing conference in Geneva, set June 12 as the date for member-countries to highlight the worldwide movement against child labor. The Philippines has a huge concentration of child laborers.

The World Day will be held annually starting this year to promote awareness and draw public attention to the worst forms of child labor, which the ILO is fighting.

"Child labor is a complex problem that requires comprehensive solutions driven by moral outrage, personal commitment, community determination and national action," ILO Director General Juan Somavia said in a statement yesterday.

A report titled "A Future without Child Labor," the most comprehensive study yet on the subject, revealed that 246 million children or one in every six children aged 5 to 17 are involved in labor.

The report said one in every eight children, or 179 million kids, are exposed to "the worst forms of child labor."

The ILO defines child labor as a form of work that requires a child to give up school and other normal childhood activities in order to perform compensated obligations.

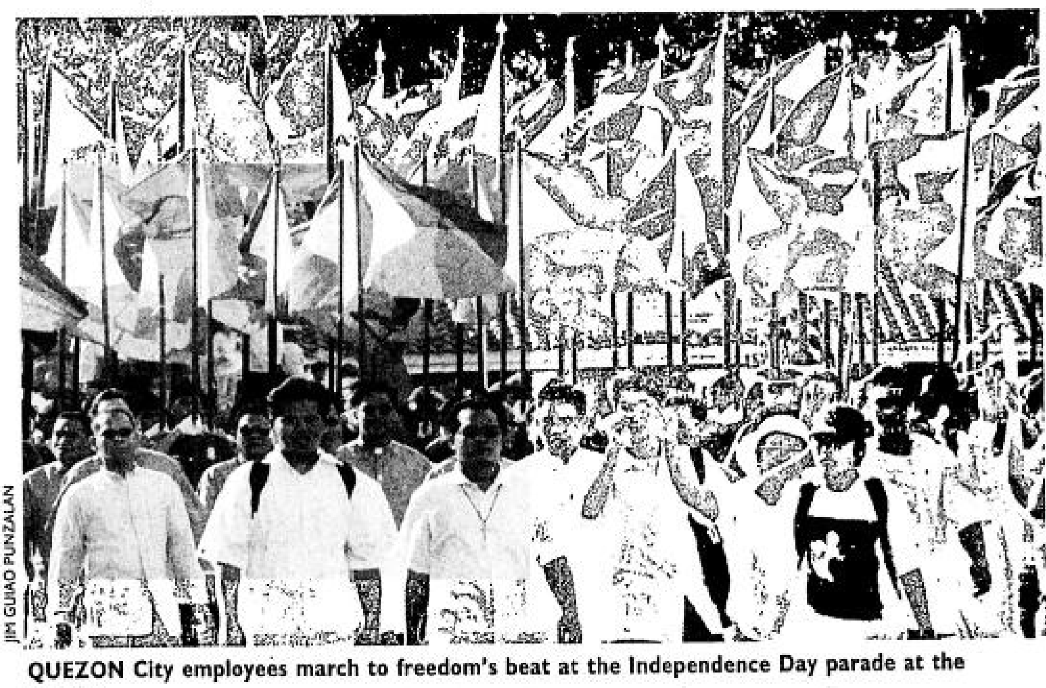
The most recent survey by the National Statistics Office revealed that four million children aged 5 to 17 in the Philippines, were involved in economic activities.

Among the working children, 60 percent are exposed to dangerous working conditions, including physical, biological, parasitic, viral and chemical hazards, according to the report.

One out of four working children in the country were employed as permanent workers and had to stop schooling. Around 40 percent of them finished grade school, 32 percent reached high school, 0.8 percent went to college, and 3 percent never attended school.

THE GIANT Philippine flag at Rizal Park is raised by, from right, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and other government and military officials.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN



QUEZON City employees march to freedom's beat at the Independence Day parade at the Luneta.

Police stop militant groups' 'celebrations'

From page A1

we were wrapping up our program," said Alab Katipunan member Cecil Leano.

The militants were later released at around 5 p.m. yesterday.

As the seven protesters were being arrested, the police blocked the march of the Kilusan Para sa Pambansang Demokrasya and Akbayan on T.M. Kalaw.

Effigy

Akbayan protesters burned an effigy of a tank near the National Library when the police blocked their path. They later withdrew peacefully toward Taft Avenue.

At around 1:30 p.m., Bayan and its allied groups tried to make their way from the Liwasang Bonifacio to the US Embassy but they too were blocked on T.M. Kalaw.

The protesters tried to elude the policemen by turning toward UN Avenue. But again, anti-riot policemen were waiting for them at the corner of UN Avenue and M.H. del Pilar.

The militants were forced to hold their program at that corner and later withdrew peacefully.

Their protest march included "floats," including one depicting Ms Macapagal as a "Statue of Liberty" holding a book marked MLSA (Mutual Logistics and Support Agreement).

The float of the women's group Gabriela showed Ms Macapagal and Uncle Sam cheering as they rode atop a huge fighter plane perched on a jeepney.

A group of scientists called Agham depicted a jeepney as a launching pad and storage facility for US military weapons and toxic materials. Photographs of children suffering from toxic-related illnesses lined up the side of the jeepney.

Curriculum

Ten youths and teachers from Anakbayan wore cardboard masks and body parts to make themselves look like robots. Some teachers put a giant funnel full of trash on a student to dramatize their opposition to the millennium curriculum.

Other floats included the Kilusang Mayo Uno's giant gas pump operated by Uncle Sam, the Big Three and Ms Macapagal, and the one prepared by Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas which showed a peasant being "crushed" by sacks of rice, corn and other imports.

Casiño said the floats were "proof of the continuing US neocolonial rule in the country and the puppetry of the current regime."

Casiño said the claim of the government that the June 7 military operation to rescue three Abu Sayyaf hostages was successful was "meant to justify more US involvement in Philippine affairs."

Two of the hostages died in the firefight.

Leo Legaspi, Migrante International chair, said the country could not be independent because some "2,600 Filipino workers are exported and forced to work abroad every day just to survive."

Legaspi said "anti-people policies" like the privatization, deregulation and liberalization of various industries showed that the government was serving foreign interests, particularly those of the United States.

"Where is our independence if government-owned hospitals, schools and corporations including those in the oil, water and power sectors are privatized and are now owned by foreign companies?" asked Connie Bragas-Regalado, chair of the United Filipinos in Hong Kong.

Aside from Casiño, those who led the march were Bishop Alan Rey Sarte of the Church People Cry; Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo, Crispin Beltran and Liza Maza and KMU spokesperson Renato M. Reyes.

PULIS
PULIS
PULIS

NOT everyone saw cause to celebrate. A member of a militant group burns the Stars and Stripes on T.M. Kalaw Street in front of policemen who blocked his way to the US Embassy.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

AMERICAN forces in Basilan stand at attention as President Macapagal-Arroyo raises the flag there.

VAL HANDUMON

Plays, songs hail Cordillera heroes

Elizabeth Kusil, 68, a descendant of Ibaloi hero Kustacio Carantes. EV ESPIRITU

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Plays, musicals and songs written as early as 1950 have pieced together anecdotes about these revolutionaries, including Mateo Carantes or "Kustacio," the liaison officer of Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo; his brother, Cuidno; Juan Oraa Cariño, Mateo's older brother and a Katipunan lieutenant; Juan Piraso; Magastino Laruan; Espiritu Pimentel and about 500 other supporters.

Lynette Carantes, 35, a playwright and Kustacio's great-great-granddaughter, said most of the songs and plays dwelt on the motivations that led the Ibalois, Kankanaeys and Bontocs to fight the *conquistadores* (conquerors).

A 60-year-old tune chants the story about a Spaniard's whip, which killed an Ibaloi boy. This explains in part why Ibalois abhor the horsewhip, despite their easy association today with the American cowboy, Linda Grace said.

The tune is still popular here today.

Even the names some Ibaloi families registered with the Spanish colonial government in the 1800s to stake their claim to their lands reflect stories of colonial abuse, according to Elizabeth Kusil, 68, another Carantes heir.

The family name of Chakchakan, for example, referred to the story of an Ibaloi who was forced by a Spanish colonial official to act as a human bridge and porter to help the official cross a river.

"Chakchakan" is Ibaloi for "crossing the river," said Joseph Jude Carantes, the clan's spokesperson.

Introduction

The book "Resistance and Revolution in the Cordillera," credits Kustacio and Mateo Cariño's forays into the Ilocos region for their introduction to the Katipunan.

"News about the Katipunan and the developing plans to revolt against the Spaniards in 1890 were absorbed from the Ilocanos by Igorot traders. Because of their affiliation with the Katipunan, (Kustacio and Mateo) often traveled to La Union. Kustacio even reached as far as Tayug, Pangasinan, and Manila in 1885," wrote Prof. Rowena Boquiren of the UP College, Baguio.

In the journals of the late historian Geoffrey Carantes, Kustacio's son Maximino recalled witnessing his father's venture to Lingayen, Pangasinan, "to report to the Spanish authorities (and) express their grievances against the abuses committed by the Spaniards in Baguio and Benguet."

The same journals recall a time when Kustacio returned home sick from consuming oysters, said Joseph Jude Carantes. He said this validated Kustacio's ties to the Malolos Convention, which had served oyster meals to Katipuneros.

"The next three years after the 1896 Philippine Revolution was ignited were swift and confusing. The Spanish colonial government began tracking down Katipuneros based in central and southern Benguet. At the same time, in the north, local leaders instigated an uprising against the Spanish colonial governors," Boquiren wrote for the centennial edition of the UP Diliman Review.

Juan Oraa Cariño, Kustacio, Piraso and Laruan also proposed to attack the 35-man force of the *comandancia* in La Trinidad, Benguet, but a miscalculation foiled their plans.

In hiding

By 1897, when Aquinaldo assumed the leadership of the Katipunan, the Katipuneros from the Cordillera were in hiding.

Spanish forces had, meanwhile, escalated their onslaught, killing 84 people in Sagada, Mt. Province, because of reports that there were Katipunan sympathizers in the mountains.

In September 1898, the Katipunan forces managed to conquer the Spanish outpost in Bontoc, Mt. Province, just as Aguinaldo declared the first Philippine Republic.

The victory was short-lived. The American colonial forces began their war against Aguinaldo.

But by that time, Cordillera also became the official refuge of the Katipunan leaders.

Kustacio again played a big role in Aguinaldo's retreat from the American colonial army of "*nigdos* (blacks)."

Geoffrey Carantes' documentary accounts refer to a period when Aguinaldo hid in Kustacio's home in "Sadyo" (currently the area where the Baguio Economic Zone is located) here, before he proceeded to Isabela where he was captured by the Americans.

The late historian would later ask himself in his journal: "What binds the Ibalois to wage continuous war against the foreigners?"

Another Ibaloi play may have the answer.

Vicious battle

Lynette Carantes wrote the play "Tonglo" in 1997 to dramatize the viciousness of the battle, waged a hundred years before the Katipunan was active, when Spanish soldiers overran and burned the defiant village of Tonglo in Benguet.

Boquiren said the battle was completely deleted from clan memories because all 200 men, women and children of Tonglo were killed.

But Lynette said memories persisted. In her play, the last old man of Tonglo screamed out in fury as he died, "because the voices of the old Ibalois are strong and these are carried into the next generation."

"I'd like to think the next generations were our own Katipuneros," she said.

Swiss court 'refreezes' . . .

From page A1

The Presidential Commission on Good Government on Tuesday hailed the order as a victory for the Philippine government because the freeze reimposed on the Velasco accounts would last until the PCGG's forfeiture petition against the three is resolved.

PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. stressed that the order was not final but a provisional one because Velasco filed an appeal seeking the lifting of the freeze.

The order is more like a court injunction, Carranza said.

"Still, this validates the PCGG's position," he said in a press briefing.

Whether the deposits of Velasco, his nephew Alfredo de Borja and his secretary Carmencita Clavecilla de Borja are intact, however, remains to be seen. The deposits at the Union Bancaire Privée in Zurich and Geneva should contain an estimated $17 million.

Carranza said the PCGG's Swiss lawyers had already asked the court to require the Swiss bank to report on the status of the funds to the court. Until then, the PCGG will not know whether Velasco, De Borja and Clavecilla were able to withdraw their Swiss deposits after the freeze order was lifted by magistrate Dieter Jann on March 12.

The Zurich court's decision was dated April 11, but the PCGG disclosed the ruling to the media only last Tuesday.

According to the Zurich court, it had given due course to the appeal of the Philippine government questioning Jann's March 12 order lifting the freeze.

It ordered the "temporary continuation of the freeze" on the $17 million accounts of Velasco, De Borja and Clavecilla.

"The temporary freezing of these accounts is to be ordered anew," the court said.

The order actually came a day after the PCGG filed its appeal with the Zurich high court on April 11.

Based on the documents the PCGG released to the media, it was Philippine Ambassador to Switzerland Rora Navarro-Tolentino who transmitted to the PCGG a copy of the Zurich court's decision written in German, as well as the embassy's unofficial translation of the order, as early as May 2.

Carranza said the Zurich court's decision was provisional.

"This is just a provisional order at the start of the case. To settle the proceedings, the court wants the freeze to continue while it hears the arguments regarding prescription, and all the other matters. What's important here is that you have a very clear order," Carranza said.

He said the order would stay "until the (forfeiture) case is finished."

The PCGG's forfeiture cases filed against Velasco, De Borja and Clavecilla are still pending resolution at the Department of Justice. It is the DOJ that will determine whether the forfeiture petitions should be filed with the Sandiganbayan.

The temporary freeze covers the Swiss deposits of De Borja under the account name 992813 Nono worth $921,532 as of Dec. 31, 2002; the deposits of Clavecilla under the account 992571 Kalepa with a value of $555,544; and the deposits of Velasco under the Andrews Foundation account 902003 Necktie worth $15,519,972 as of Dec. 31, 2002.

Zurich District Attorney Dieter Jann lifted the freeze on these accounts, upon the request of Velasco, on Feb. 6. The PCGG filed an appeal with his office, but Jann dismissed the appeal and ordered anew the lifting of the freeze on March 12.

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SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS ON TV
Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

BASKETBALL: NBA Finals – LA Lakers vs New Jersey Nets, Game 4 at 9 a.m. on ESPN (r – 9:30 p.m.) and NBN 4 (r – 10 p.m.)

GOLF: PGA Buick Classic, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r), Highlights at midnight on Star Sports

US Open 2002, First Round tomorrow at 1 a.m. on ESPN

England advances but Argentina out

Other qualifiers: Germany, Denmark Ireland, Sweden, Senegal and Spain

OSAKA, Japan —England rode a 0-0 draw yesterday against already eliminated Nigeria into the World Cup's second round of 16 and a showdown with European rival Denmark.

England needed only a draw in the Group F finale and got it - and probably deserved the victory with more scoring threats.

England finished second in the group (five points) with Sweden finishing tops (five points) after a 1-1 draw with Argentina on Wednesday, eliminating the highly favored South Americans.

England defeated Argentina, 1-0, and drew with Sweden, 1-1, in its other group games. Nigeria lost its other two group matches.

Four years ago England reached the final 16 but was ousted by Argentina.

In the round of 16, Sweden faces African newcomer Senegal, which finished second in Group A. Denmark won Group A and its match against England will be their first showdown in the World Cup finals.

"It was very hard today, very difficult," England's Swedish coach Sven-Goran Eriksson said. "We knew that Nigeria, they wouldn't lose this game and wanted to try to win it."

"We had more chances than them, but we didn't score today. Let's hope we save them for Saturday."

ENGLAND'S David Beckham (left) puts the ball away from Nigeria's Jay Jay Okocha during their World Cup Group F match yesterday at the Nagai Stadium in Osaka, Japan. England drew with Nigeria, 0-0. AP

WORLD CUP 2002 STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Group A							
Denmark	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Senegal	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Uruguay	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
France	3	0	1	2	0	3	1
Group B							
Spain	2	2	0	0	6	2	6
South Africa	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Paraguay	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Slovenia	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Group C							
Brazil	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Costa Rica	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Turkey	2	0	0	1	2	3	1
China	2	0	0	2	0	6	0
Group D							
Korea	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
USA	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Portugal	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
Poland	2	0	0	2	0	6	0
Group E							
Germany	3	2	1	0	11	1	7
Rep Ireland	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
Cameroon	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Saudi Arabia	3	0	0	3	0	12	0
Group F							
Sweden	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
England	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Argentina	2	1	1	1	1	1	4
Nigeria	2	0	1	2	1	3	1
Group G							
Mexico	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Italy	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Croatia	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Ecuador	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Group H							
Japan	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Russia	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Belgium	2	0	2	0	2	3	2
Tunisia	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

Go wants Asian athletics held here

PHILIPPINE Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok will fly to Sri Lanka on Monday to bid for the hosting of the 2003 Asian Championship, which was last held in the country in 1993.

Getting the full support of Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain, Go said the country is capable of staging the event here again.

The late Gov. Jose Sering, founding president of the Asian Athletics Association, first hosted the event in Marikina 29 years ago.

The Patafa chief also bared that the country is likely to spend $400,000 or roughly P20 million to stage the Asian Championships at the Rizal Memorial track oval.

Del Monte, 2 others enter football finals

DEL Monte, Initao and Manolo United beat their respective finals opponents recently to make it to the regional championships of the Cagayan de Oro Adidas Lightning football.

Del Monte defeated Monte Claro, 1-0, to win the under-15 category, while Initao downed Iligan, 2-0, for the under-19 title. Crowd favorite Manolo United swept all its rivals to dominate the Open category.

Tournament director Jojo Rodriguez and Adidas marketing services assistant manager Odette Velarde, along with Cagayan de Oro Misamis Oriental Football Association president Allan Abellanosa, awarded the prizes.

The winners will join the regional championship on June 30 at the Ateneo de Manila football grounds where trophies and Adidas products are at stake.

The tournament was sponsored by Adidas in cooperation with Fuji Films, McDonald's, San Miguel Beer, Hotel Intercontinental Manila, Zed, HSBC, Sony Records, Dream Broadcasting, Green Cross Alcohol, 99.5 RT and 89.9 dwTM.

O'Neal, Lakers seek NBA Finals sweep today

O'NEAL

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey —Shaquille O'Neal remembers the night Houston fans banged brooms against his team bus following the last sweep in the NBA Finals. Seven years later, O'Neal considers it one of the four lowest moments of his life.

O'Neal can bring his own broom to Game 4 and smack it all over New Jersey if the Los Angeles Lakers finish this series Wednesday night (Thursday in Manila).

The Lakers have a 3-0 lead over the Nets in the best-of-seven series and a Los Angeles win on Wednesday would mark just the seventh sweep in Finals history.

O'Neal refused Tuesday to dwell on the looming opportunity of being on the winning side of a sweep.

"I don't like to use that word, because it's kind of bad luck," he said. "I'm not the one to count my chickens before they hatch."

But surely there's nothing O'Neal could want more than to reverse the worst night of his basketball career.

O'Neal was a member of the Orlando Magic when he made his first trip to the NBA Finals, which the Rockets won in a four-game sweep. Until O'Neal won his first of consecutive titles two years ago, that 1995 disaster was a defining point of his career.

O'Neal remembers it took the Magic bus two hours to get from the Houston arena to the team hotel as overzealous fans attacked the vehicle with the brooms they'd been waving throughout the game in celebration of the sweep.

"They were hitting the buses with the brooms and throwing bricks and rioting," he said. "I was just sitting there crying, looking out. They were laughing at me."

It left a permanent mark on a man who knows for certain he's only cried four times in his life - the first time his father hit him, when both of his grandmothers died and the 1995 Finals.

"It was a hard feeling. I said to myself, 'If I ever have the opportunity to make it to the Finals again, I won't let my teammates down. I have to make my presence known. We just have to win,'" he said.

Alaska grabs Feihl

By June Navarro

A PAIR of player-exchange deals involving three teams erupted yesterday barely four days to go before the mid-season PBA Commissioner's Cup unfurls on June 16.

Alaska, yearning to add more defensive depth in the coming conference, traded the sweet-shooting James Wallkvist to Barangay Ginebra for EJ Feihl, a seven-footer known for his defensive abilities inside the paint.

The Aces also added Robert Duat, a 6-foot-4 defensive specialist, to their lineup but sent shooting guard Bryan Gahol to San Miguel Beer in a trade bereft of monetary considerations and future draft picks.

"I think the trade would be favorable to both. Wallkvist is a good perimeter shooter while EJ is a big man who could play tough defense in the shaded lane," said Alaska team manager Joaqui Trillo.

On acquiring Duat from the Beermen, Trillo said the Aces needed a rugged type of a player whose forte is putting the cuffs on imports, a talent best exemplified by Duat.

"Well, it would be unfair for Rob (Duat) once he's back in the bench again in the third conference considering the improvement he has made in the last conference," said San Miguel Beer head coach Jong Uichico.

La Salle, Blu clash in playoff

GAME TOMORROW *(Pasig Sports Center)*
4 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Blu Sun Power

By Dennis U. Eroa

JAMES Yap sizzled as ICTSI-La Salle tripped early finalist Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation, 82-77, to arrange a do-or-die game with Blu Sun Power for the second finals berth in the PBL Chairman's Cup last night at the Makati Coliseum.

The 6-foot-3 Yap poured 12 of his night-high 29 points in the fourth quarter as the Green Archers remained in contention to make the "Dream Duel" a reality. This was the third time in four games this conference that La Salle beat Ateneo.

To arrange a best-of-five championship series with Ateneo, La Salle must hurdle Blu in tomorrow's playoff at the Pasig Sports Center.

Slippery Lou Gatumbato banged in two triples, while Tris Codamon hauled a crucial offensive rebound after missing consecutive gift shots as the Detergent Kings frustrated the Sparklers, 73-72, in the first game.

Despite being assured of a finals berth, the Blue Eagles left no stone unturned as they engaged the Green Archers in a thrilling fight to the finish.

Scores:

ICTSI-LA SALLE 82—Yap 29, Cortez 16, Wilson 12, Lanete 6, Uy 5, Franco 5, Sta.Maria 5, Zamora 4, Magsumbol 0, Cuan 0, Ramos 0.

ATENEO-HAPEE 77—Cruz C 15, Alvarez 14, Aniciete 13, Cruz 8, Villanueva 8, Valdez 6, Domingo 4, Chia 2, Rodriguez 0, Quimpo 0.

Quarters: 15-17, 42-36, 60-53, 82-77

Nike 3 on 3 on Saturday

THE NIKE 3 on 3, the country's longest-running and most prestigious cage tournament of its kind, kicks off on June 15 in Bacolod City.

Nike, which initiated the 3 on 3 event ahead of everyone else in 1993, will stage similar events in Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Davao, Pampanga, Baguio and Manila.

"It's all systems go. We are leaving no stone unturned to make this year's Nike 3 on 3 event a rousing success, just like in our past stagings," said Auty Villarama, Nike's Sports marketing manager.

Villarama, together with Nike Sports Marketing Coordinator Rely San Agustin and Miguel Minana, president of Themeworks, also made ocular inspections of the six venues.

After the Bacolod leg, the Nike 3 on 3 goes to Cebu at the SM City-Cebu on June 22; Cagayan de Oro on June 29 at the Lim Ket Kai Mall; Davao on July 6 at the SM City-Davao; Pampanga on Aug. 10 at the SM City-Pampanga and Baguio on Aug. 16 at the University of Baguio Gym.

The Metro Manila workshop is on July 11 with the area eliminations set on July 26 and 27.

Interested schools and participants can call Themeworks at 535-7467 or 531-1886.

Paga golf tomorrow

THE PAGA golf tournament for June will be held tomorrow at Malarayat in Lipa, Batangas. Tee off time is from 8 to 8:30 a.m. Paga president Jimmy Zeñarosa said that on July 5, Paga will play at Camp Aguinaldo to celebrate its 34th annual golf tournament. A Dodge Durango is being offered by Chrysler/Norkis Yamaha as hole-in-one prize. Taylor Made-Adidas are co-sponsors.

Dickies' Gutierrez pockets 2 SVI races

Standings after 6 rounds

SVI Challenge Cup—1. M. Gutierrez (Dickies-MP Turbo) 40 points; 2. O. Aguilar (Caltex-Beefeater) 22; 3-4 D. Pastor (Team TEC), T. Gutierrez (Dickies-MP Turbo) 20; 5. M. Francisco (Petron-SRA) 17; 6-10 E. Tanael (Intelco), G. de la Merced (Big Shot Billiards, G. Apacible (Gulf Oil-MP Turbo), A Padua (Gul Oil-MP Turbo), P. Mendiola (Caltex-Beefeater) 6; 11. J. Sambo (Dickies-MP Turbo) 4; 12. S. Oliveros (AMA Autotechnics) 3.

Challenge Cup C—1. O. Aguilar 33; 2. T. Gutierrez 30; 3. M. Francisco 28; 4. D. Pastor 25; 5. A. Padua 17; 6. E. Tanael 6; 7. S. Oliveros 5.

Novice—1. P. Mendiola 46; 2. G. de la Merced 38; 3. J. Sambo 28; 4. A. Feliciano (Velocity Motors) 6.

SUBIC—Defending champion Monching Gutierrez of Dickies-MP Turbo swept two more races in the SVI Challenge Cup, even as Menchie Francisco of Petron-SRA and Oscar Aguilar of Caltex-Beefeater hogged the limelight with impressive victories at the newly renovated Subic International Raceway.

Gutierrez, who also swept the third and fourth rounds held on April 28, defeated Francisco in the fifth round and Aguilar in the sixth round to wrest the overall lead in this prestigious 14-part series held simultaneously with the SVI-Petron Grand Prix.

The well-known movie/TV actor, who took up car racing seriously only last year, submitted fast times of 32:06.903 in the morning race and 32:16.740 in the afternoon race. He also established the day's fastest lap time of 1:41.056 in the second lap in the morning.

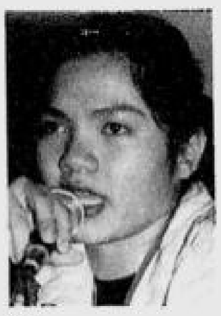
Francisco, one of only two female drivers in the registry, provided the biggest challenge to Gutierrez in the morning race, clocking 32:09.689 in the 12-lap race at the 3.0 kilometer race course. Aguilar took his turn in the afternoon with a time of 32:22.861.

Overall, Gutierrez has a perfect score of 40 points, 18 points ahead of Aguilar.

Tonton Gutierrez of Dickies-MP Turbo and Don Pastor of Team TEC share third to fourth places with 20 points, while Francisco occupies fifth place with 17 points.

Francisco and Aguilar split top honors in Class C, winning the fifth and sixth rounds despite strong challenge in the 14-man field.

Locals keep Boysen Int'l bowling foes at bay


YAP

DEFENDING champion Jennifer Tan of Singapore and Malaysian Shalin Zulkifli finally got the foreign bets going in the 31st Boysen-PBC International Open at the Green Valley Center in Pasig.

Tan, the reigning women's masters champion, immediately made her presence felt in the third leg of the CGU Asian Bowling Tour 2002, submitting 927 pinfalls to rank third in the women's singles Class O just behind the Philippines' Irene Benitez (977) and Liza del Rosario (929).

The Singaporean's surge displaced Zulkifli, the women's singles gold medalist in the last Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games, in the top three of the distaff side's premiere event, but made up for it by rolling 1779 pinfalls in the women's all events Class O to take second place and threaten Benitez's hold of the lead.

Ces Yap fell to third place with 1711.

Not as fortunate was national team coach Purvis Granger, who finally yielded the men's all events Class O lead to Malaysian Azidi Ameran.

Ameran fired 1897, beating out the 1870 of Granger, leader in the event since Day 1 of the meet sponsored by Boysen, Philippine Sports Commission, Prudential Guarantee, Bowlmart, Prima Pasta, Kegel, Regent Foods, ILO Construction and official hotel Manila Galleria Suites.

In the men's singles Class O, RJ Bautista (1009) and Botchok Rey (998) kept their 1-2 spots, but slowly creeping in js Malaysian Ben Heng whose 969 pinfalls put him in third place.

The foreign campaigners' onslaught was also felt in the team event where the Malaysian trio of Ameran, Jonathan Lim and Gerald Samuel landed at third place in the men's Class O with a series of total of 1354, trailing the RP team of Bautista, Rey and Rivera (1451) and Chester King, Duane Camacho and Granger of PBAP-Bowlmart.

The Korean squad of Lee Mi Young, Cho Yun Jung and Shin Hyun Soo also climbed into second place in the women's Class O with a total of 1201, just six pinfalls off leader RP team, composed of Del Rosario, Liza Clutario and Jojo Canare.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Jane Severino notched 2346 pins to bag the ladies crown in the 19th PBC (Philippine Bowling Congress) Open tenpin championship at the Green Valley lanes in Pasig.

Orchard winners score 5-under-par

DAN SALVADOR, Timmy Owyong and Boy Ocampo combined for a five-under-par 67 to clinch low gross honors in the 2002 Chairman's Cup, a scramble team tournament of the Orchard Golf and Country Club in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Salvador's trio bested 49 other squads for the top plum in the 18-hole event held in honor of club chair Conrad Benitez.

Jerry Perez, Andrew Duerme and Louie Paris scored a net 60 on a handicap of eight to bag the team low net crown even as Michael Pizarro scored a hole-in-one on No. 5 and won an all-expense paid trip to Hong Kong.

Sta. Lucia Realty, Cebu Pacific, PRGR and Taylor Made Adidas are the tournament sponsors.

Silverio stakes Asian Formula lead

SILVERIO

THE 2002 Asian Formula Challenge, Asia's first truly international championship for Formula 3 and Formula Renault organized by the Asian Formula 3 Corp. (AF3) and Formula Racing Development (FRD), resumes at the Zhuhai International Circuit in China's Guangdong Province on June 16.

A banner field headed by series leader Tom's Zed driver Jojo Silverio of the Philippines, Englishman Mark Goddard of Castrol Team Goddard, Hong Kong-based Paul Chan of Vertex Motorsports and Filipino Richard Joson of Denso JF3 Racing will see action in Rounds 5 and 6 of the championship.

Silverio currently lead the series with 62 points followed by Goddard with 40. So far, Silverio and Goddard have split the first four rounds with two wins apiece.

They will be put to the test by Frenchman Philppe Descombes of FRD Motorsports and Vertex Motorsports team leader Marchy Lee of Hong Kong, who made a strong showing during the last two rounds owing to their familiarity with the 4.32-kilometer track.

Filipino bets Pepon Marave of the Shell Racing Team and JP Tuason of TRP Team Oxygen are also looking forward to improving their standing after problems thwarted their efforts during their last sortie in China.

That will be a difficult task considering that FRD teammates Steven Chau and David Louie of Hong Kong are poised to give them a fight when the field rolls off the starting line.

In the formula Renault category, it is still Franky Cheng who leads at the top of the standings with a commanding 120 points after claiming victory in all of the first four rounds of the series. Fifty points adrift is Filipino Enzo Pastor, who was punted from the rear while he was leading during the last round. He ended in the gravel trap and was unable to restart and salvage valuable points that could have put him closer to Cheng in the standings.

Although the Formula Renault Championship has so far been a cat-and-mouse game between these two drivers, things could change dramatically the next time around as the Netherlands' Francis Tjia, and Hong Kong's Kenneth Ma and Michael Choi could possibly take the fight to the frontrunners if the track conditions are right.

The 2002 Asian Formula Challenge is a seven-leg, 14-race championship that is being contested in the Philippines, China, Malaysia and Korea.

Two rounds are run on each weekend, wherein points are awarded to drivers based on their finishing position.

Although both Formula 3 and Formula Renault cars run in the same race, each category has its won separate championships.

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Ucap stalwarts enter 4-cocker

STALWARTS of the United Cockers Association of the Philippines (Ucap) and participants from Laguna, Rizal and Batangas collide in a super 4-cock derby today at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

Last Tuesday, Lito Alcantara of Rizal emerged as solo champion in the ASF 4-Cock Derby when his entry LA 939 posted 3.5 points.

To host the event are partners Bondying Catajan of Sir Vincent entry, Ucap referee Berong Javellana and popular gaffer Noli Estralldo of Sagupaan Hammer entry.

Among those invited are *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, recently crowned as 2002 Ucap Cocker of the Year, OPMI president Vic Yu, Pol Estrellado, Blandy Tolentino, Muroy Dolorico, V. Adriano, former Congressman Peping Cojuangco, Julie Cui, recent International 9-Cock double champion Raymond Velayo, among others.

For inquries, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 535-2341 and 534-4110.

SPORTSWATCH

Pasay special derby

A SPECIAL 4-cock derby will be held at the Pasay City Cockpit starting at 7 p.m. tomorrow. A cash prize of P300,000 is up for grabs in this one-day big-time event to be hosted by newspaper publisher Jake Macasaet. Entry fee is P10,000. Submission of entries is from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Contact 843-1746, 843-189 and 816-6750 for details. Meanwhile, the PCC management announced that reservation of cockhouses for the 15th Anniversary 5-Cock Derby on July 18 and 20 is now being accepted. At stake is guaranteed prize of over P1 million, while entry fee is P15,000.

Barcelona 9-ball billiards

BILLIARDS enthusiasts can now take a shot at fame and fortune in the Barcelona Brandy P1-M 9-Ball Billiards Challenge kicking off today at the Omerta Bugsy II Bar and Billiards at 48 Examiner St., West Triangle, Quezon City. Barcelona Brandy organized the event as a follow-up to the successful P200,000 9-Ball Battle of Champions last January. Participants, whether male or female, will have the chance to challenge top cue artists like Antonio Lining, Snooky Villanueva and Warren Kiamco in the open qualifying round every Thursday, 2 p.m. at the Omerta Bugsy II Bar and Billiards. Interested participants may call up Jemah Television Inc. at 848-2002, 848-2959 or 811-3809 for details.

Ward guest poser

IRONPINOY.com, a website dedicated to the sport of bodybuilding and powerlifting as well as activities in fitness, announces the arrival of Marvin Ward, a multi-awarded American body builder and current champion of the bantamweight division of various international competitions. Ward will be a guest poser for the IronMan and IronMaiden competition to be held on June 16 at the AFP Theater. During his brief stay in the country, Ward will be conducting seminars, gym tours and interviews to help promote bodybuilding. Ward holds the title of 2001 bantamweight champion for Team Universe.

Checkmate listing on

A SECOND batch of enrollees for the Milo Checkmate Saturday clinic will still be accepted until June 15 and 22 at the St. Benedict College in Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City; Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Vito Cruz, Manila and Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan. The clinics, which starts on June 8 and will end on July 21, are held at the given respective schedules: 7-11 a.m. at SBC's HS student lounge; 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium inside the RMSC and opposite Harrison Plaza and 2:30-6:30 p.m. at the 2/F of Centermall inside GSC. Among the courses offered are for preparatory, beginners, intermediate and advanced players.

RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Mixie 2. D Contractor 3. Queen Matawe
Race 2—1. May's Magic 2. Full Blast 3. Friendly Lover/Witchcraft 4. Diamond Buck
Race 3—1. Houdini 2. King Hazam 3. Reverie
Race 4—1. Aeyu's Glory 2. Society Girl 3. Owner's Dream 4. Red Dash/Gleaming Heart 5. Valentine Dancer
Race 5—1. Two Thumbs Up 2. Katya 3. Zonie's Pride
Race 6—1. Yessir 2. Rugged Dancer 3. Jhelen 4. Shuttle's Rianne
Race 7—1. Speed Rich/Schumacher 2. Beat D Heat 3. Simple Doding 4. Go Ichi 5. Dance in the Wind
Race 8—1. Regal Mischief 2. Allusion 3. Hurry Prince
Race 9—1. Sacred Hall 2. Loose Cannon 3. Spirited Lady 4. Full Show 5. Morning Nell 6. Slew's Pleasure

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All coil rear suspension	✓	✓	✓	✓
AUDIOVOX (USA) VCD w/ LCD TV	✓	—	—	—
Side mirrors w/ demister	✓	—	—	—
Roof rack w/ rails	✓	—	—	—
Alloy wheels	✓	—	✓	—
Power features	✓	✓	✓	✓
Service warranty	3/75	2/50	2/50	2/50
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Rear all coil suspension	✓	—	—	—
Swivelling 2nd row seat	✓	—	—	—
AUDIOVOX (USA) VCD with TV	✓	—	—	—
2-tone body colors	✓	—	✓	✓
Power features	✓	✓	✓	✓
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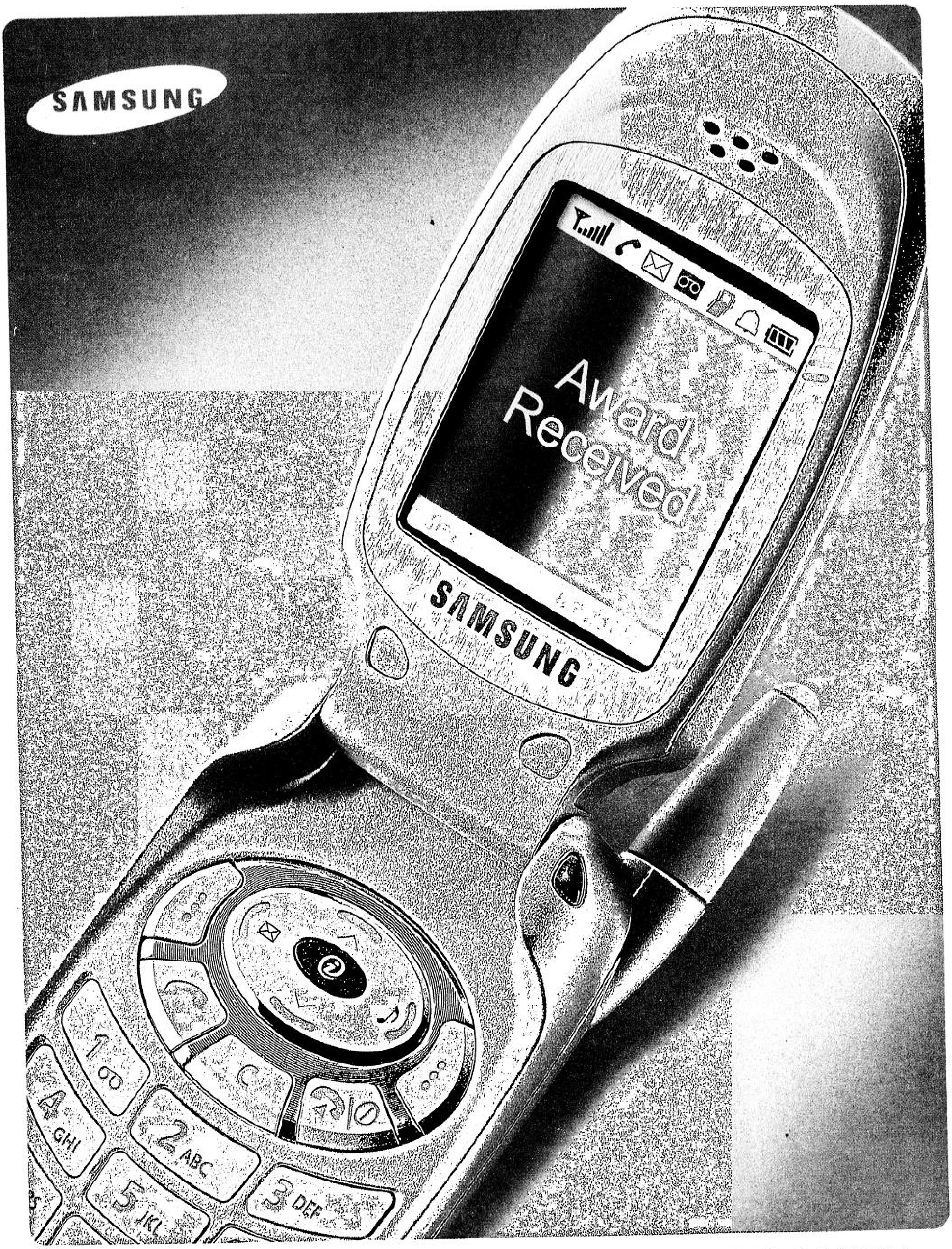

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METRO
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Full force vs Ativan

Gang suspect in death of Korean diplomat

By Alcuin Papa and TJ Burgonio

AS THE national police closed in on the killers of a South Korean diplomat, the Makati City Police yesterday formed a task force to foil criminals who prey on foreigners.

Supt. Jose Ramon Salido, head of the Makati City Police Criminal Investigation Division, yesterday said that city police chief Supt. Jovito Gutierrez has activated "Task Force Ativan."

Members of the task force were drawn from the city police's theft and robbery section, drug enforcement unit and mobile patrol.

The task force will spearhead investigation of all cases involving the Ativan Gang and hunt down members of the notorious group, Salido said.

Also, the formation of the task force is meant to "increase police visibility in the city," Salido added.

Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, yesterday vowed to crack the abduction-slay case of Korean diplomat Chung Young-ho "within this week."

Aglipay met with the family of the South Korean embassy's third secretary on Tuesday night and said police were hot on the trail of the two suspects, including the alleged leader of the Ativan Gang who went by the alias Robert Sambili.

Police intelligence men on the case refused to divulge the identities of the two suspects.

Chung, 47, who resided at Unit 2404 of Ritz Tower on Ayala Avenue in Makati, was found dead in Marikina City on June 7. All his valuables were gone.

Autopsy results showed that Chung had thrown up, possibly while unconscious, and digested food clogged his esophagus, airway and nostrils.

Results of tests that would determine the presence of lorazepam, the active ingredient in the Ativan drug, would be released today, said Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police.

The Ativan Gang, so known because its members would befriend their victims and spike their drinks with the sleep-inducing drug Ativan before robbing them of their valuables, is believed to have victimized four foreigners in the last two weeks.

In three of the four cases, a male suspect had approached their victims and identified himself as Robert Sambili, a vice president of the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank Corp.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Camp Crame believes that "Sambili" is the leader of the group.

FULL/A22

PULIS
PULIS

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

SMILING COPS
An American couple take advantage of a lull in yesterday's Independence Day protest rally by militant groups on Kalaw Street near the Rizal Park to pose for a picture using the Western Police Force blocking force as background. Note the smiling cops who later had to figure in a hot clash with militants.

Charred woman identified

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE WOMAN who was charred to death in the sea wall off Baclaran last week was a former overseas worker who had obviously been raped, police said yesterday.

Marielaine Sañez, 34, a resident of Queensrow Subdivision in Molino, Bacoor, Cavite, was found burning by a traffic enforcer on the seawall of Roxas Boulevard fronting BM Tower around noon on June 3.

Sañez was a former overseas worker separated from her husband with whom she had two children, police said.

Investigators have yet to establish the motive behind the gruesome killing of Sañez. But they theorized the victim could have been raped first before she was set on fire.

Robert Gomito of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority had told police that the victim was still alive when he found her. She later died at the Philippine General Hospital.

Recovered from the crime scene were Sañez's purse containing P226, a pair of slippers, and a lid of a container that probably contained the gas used in burning the victim.

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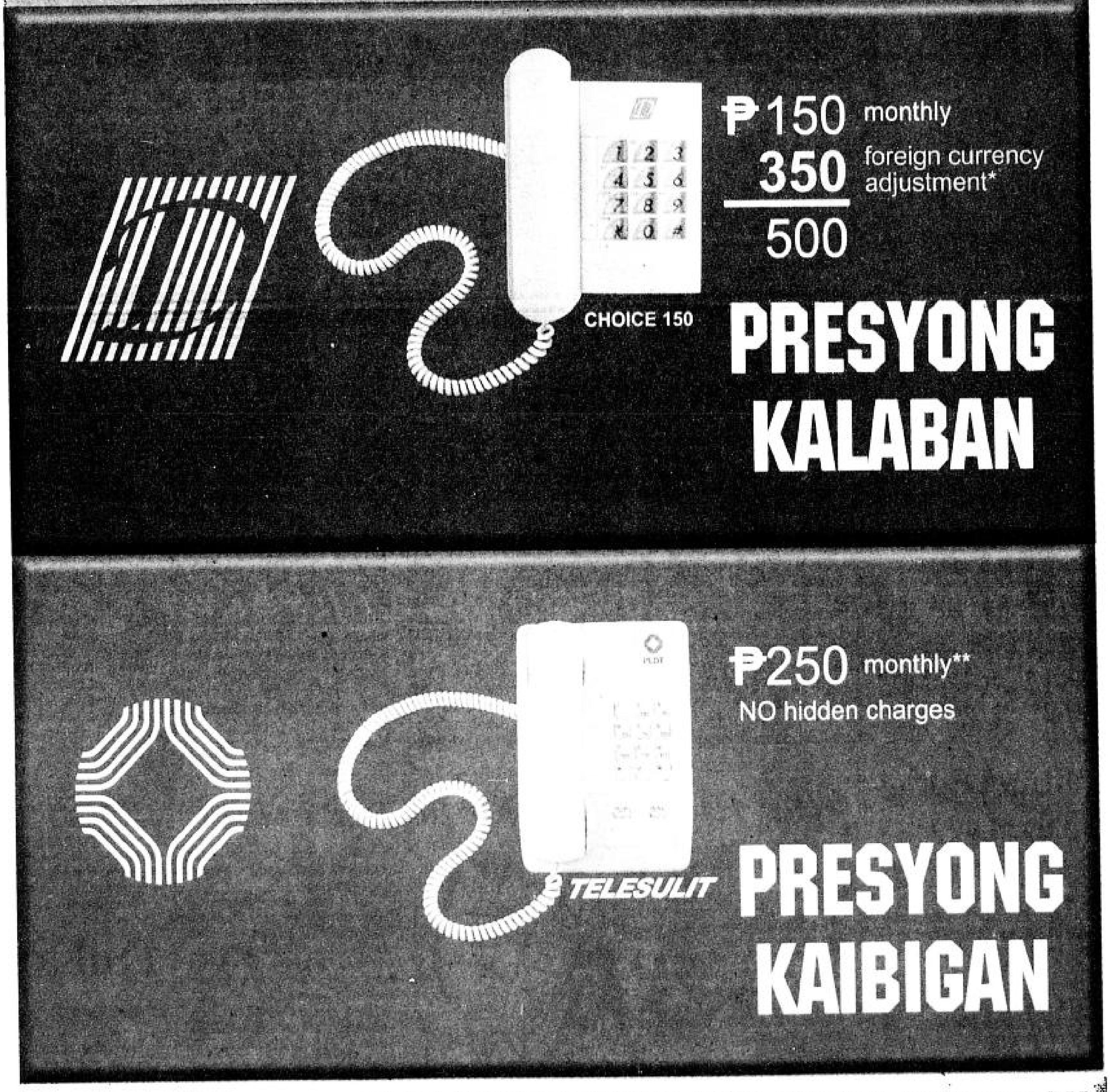
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FBI-style course for 341 cops

By TJ Burgonio

THE 341-strong Pasay City police force, which came under fire for bungling a hostage situation late last month, will receive training from the elite Special Action Force and Federal Bureau of Investigation-trained personnel, officials said yesterday.

The policemen, who were relieved for mishandling the May 31 hostage drama that left the hostage taker and the victim dead, will start their 20-day course in "First Responders' Call" on Monday.

Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police, said the course includes modules on hostage negotiation, marksmanship and close-quarter battle.

He said that elite SAF personnel would handle the training in marksmanship and close-quarter battle; while a pool of police instructors trained by the FBI would conduct the training in hostage negotiation.

For its part, the Directorate for Human Resources on Doctrine Development (DHRDD), headed by Director Florencio Fianza, would conduct academic courses.

Due to budget constraints, the national police is reconsidering earlier plans to hold the training at the SAF headquarters inside the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority complex in Olongapo City.

The cost of the training is expected to run up to at least P1 million.

"We would save a lot if we hold the training inside Camp Crame," Espina said, noting that there was a proposal to hold the training inside the camp's multi-purpose hall.

Those to be trained are 301 uniformed personnel, led by relieved police chief Supt. Eduardo dela Cerna, and 40 non-uniformed personnel.

"After the training, majority of the policemen will go back to their posts if they're found to be efficient," Espina said.

Next to undergo training on critical incident management are members of the crisis management teams of each police station in Metro Manila, according to Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, head of the National Capital Region Police Office.

Admitting that the Pasay policemen committed operational lapses in the hostage drama, Director General Leandro Mendoza ordered their retraining in hostage crisis management.

Asistio kid sows terror

THE SON of former Caloocan City Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio is in deep trouble again.

Two men yesterday accused Luisito "Patchot" Asistio, 36, of G. de Leon Street, 10th Avenue, Grace Park, Caloocan City, of poking a gun and threatening them during a funeral wake in the city on Sunday.

Ricardo Laveste and Thomas Manas, both 50 and residents of M. Hizon Street, 10th Avenue, told SPO2 Roland Mendoza that on June 9, they were at a funeral wake of a neighbor when Asistio arrived and allegedly aimed his .38-caliber pistol at them and threatened to harm them for no apparent reason.

Laveste and Manas said their neighbors talked to Asistio and persuaded him to leave.

But Asistio returned that evening and again threatened Laveste and Manas, SPO2 Mendoza said.

The victims said barangay officials saw what was happening and quickly called the police. Asistio left the scene as soon as he saw the approaching lawmen, they added.

Tina Santos

PNP hit for gross neglect

By Christian V. Esguerra

"YOU have neglected us for so long, so how can you expect to produce the best policemen from our ranks?"

Thus said an officer of the Pasay police, referring to the Philippine National Police leadership and the Pasay city government following the 90-day suspension order issued against him and 20 other policemen who figured in the bungled hostage incident nearly two weeks ago.

The officer, who refused to be named, said the suspension was "unfair and too harsh" especially for those who did not fire a single shot during the hostage taking.

"Other policemen have been accused of robbery with homicide and extortion but they never got such a harsh treatment," he told the INQUIRER yesterday. "The worse that they got was a relief."

He said the order would be particularly unfair for officers who might be dropped from the charge sheet if the Pasay prosecutor's office decides to elevate the case to the regional trial court.

Instead of putting all the blame on Pasay policemen, PNP officials should consider the botched rescue operation a "wake-up call" for them to improve the working conditions of police forces nationwide, especially that of the Pasay police, the officer added.

"In my many years in police service, I was issued bullets only twice," he said. "But others are not as lucky as I am since they have no guns."

The squalid office housing the Pasay Criminal Investigation Division, the Special Weapons and Tactics, and a detention cell is solid proof of the sorry state of the city police, he said.

He said the "office" looks like a lucky remnant of a suspended demolition of a ghetto: it has no doors, its electrical wires hanging loosely from the ceiling, the refuse in its lone toilet bowl often spilling to the floor during rainy days. To enter the office, one has to cross a rusty sheet of metal placed over a marshy ditch filled with spillovers of the nearby septic tank.

The area in front of the office looks like a junk shop with the worn-out vehicles, which are used as pieces of evidence in pending cases, recklessly parked there.

"Since the time of Mayor (Pablo) Cuneta, we have been receiving promises that the area would be improved," the police officer said. "Several years later, the situation has only worsened."

2 killed in anti-kidnap raid

By Mei Magsino, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*
and Philip Tubeza, *in Manila*

AN AGENT of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) and a suspected kidnap gang member were killed, while two others were injured in an anti-kidnapping operation that started at dawn yesterday at Barangay Pantay na Matanda, Tanauan City.

Authorities also arrested 17 persons suspected to be kidnap-for-ransom group members.

Batangas police director Senior Supt. Rolando Lorenzo revealed that three kidnap-for-ransom groups in Batangas have reportedly been linked to big kidnapping syndicates in Metro Manila. Manila-based kidnap-for-ransom groups hide their kidnap victims in the three barangays manned by either of the groups.

Killed was Isafp agent Arnel Barbasa, who was hit by a bullet in the head when his team was about to get near the house of suspected gang leader Armando Lucido.

The operation, which involved 200 lawmen, was conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation, the Army's Intelligence Service (Isafp), the Batangas provincial police and the Tanauan police.

"We timed (the operation). when the members of the three groups were all in Tanauan," Lorenzo said, "That's when we conducted the operation and arrested them." An NBI source said the operation was supposed to enforce eight arrest warrants against the suspects. Four of the warrants were for kidnapping while the others were for multiple murder.

The lawmen were supposed to serve a warrant of arrest to Lucido for illegal possession of firearms at about 7 a.m., but before the arresting team could get near his house, it was sprayed with bullets coming from inside the house.

The raiding team did not find Lucido, whose kidnap-for-ransom group is believed to have linkages in Metro Manila. He was reportedly attending the fiesta celebration of his wife's family in Nueva Ecija. A suspected member of Lucido's group was also killed while two other gang members were injured.

Tanauan police chief Supt. Francisco Rodriguez identified the dead suspect as a certain Mario and the wounded as Lorenz Torres of Laguna and Pasencio Malvedo of Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

But a source from the NBI said it could not be determined if the two are gang members. Police confiscated from Lucido's house a .45-caliber pistol, assorted bullets and magazines, and one .38-caliber revolver.

Lorenzo said the Pantay na Matanda operation was simultaneous with that in Barangay Ambulong, where the Benito Simbahan kidnap-for-ransom group was spotted, and in Barangay Suplang, where the Fajardo kidnap group was sighted.

In Ambulong, Simbahan was able to escape from the raiding team.

But an NBI source confirmed the arrest of Simbahan's brother, Manolo.

The 16 other men arrested were Crispin P. Malabanan, Romeo G. Pandino, Nestor G. Landicho, Danilo M. Cortez, Bernardo F. Feleo, Leonard John V. Bautista, Lopert B. Castro, Neilboy B. Bijo, Celso J. Esconde, Fortunato M. Malveda, Urbano D. Guevarra, Sergio C. Talavera, Rommel M. Lidan, Octavio M. Escares, Carlos M. Malveda and Alfredo M. Cortez.

They were brought to the NBI headquarters for their alleged involvement in jueteng, according to the NBI. Some of them allegedly had firearms and explosives. The NBI is trying to determine if they have links to Grupo 21.

The kidnap-for-ransom groups, Lorenzo said, had been under surveillance from the NBI, Isafp and the police.

In April, three bodies of kidnap victims in an advanced stage of decomposition were exhumed in a sugarcane plantation of Tanauan City , which the kidnap groups used as their killing fields, earning for Tanauan City the title as the "Crime Capital of Batangas."

Bonnet Gang strikes again

POLICE are hot on trail of five suspected members of the notorious Bonnet Gang who barged into an establishment and carted away some P1 million in cash and jewelry in Malabon City yesterday.

Businessman Arturo Supangan, 56, and his wife Laura, 50, of 135 M.H. del Pilar St., Barangay Tugatog, Malabon City, were also blindfolded and hogtied by the suspects.

Officers-on-case SPO2 George Gubatan and PO2 Redentor Mantala Jr. said the robbers sneaked into the ALS Marine Distributor located on the ground floor of the victim's house at around 3 a.m.

Police said the couple was sleeping on the third floor when awakened by the noise created by the suspects.

The victims were blindfolded and hogtied with masking tapes before the suspects started ransacking the room of the couple, whose business involved selling speedboat engines.

The robbers fled after staying for more than an hour.

Sensing that the robbers were already gone, Arturo managed to bite off masking tapes on his hand before rescuing his wife.

Police were trying to determine the identities of the suspects.

Tina Santos

June 12 freedom for pa's sex slave

YESTERDAY, Independence Day, a 15-year-old high school student also gained freedom from the hands of an abusive father who allegedly turned her into a sex slave for more than four years in Navotas.

Victim Merly (not her real name) filed a complaint against her father Edmundo Aporillo, 42, a post master in Pasay City and resident of 160 T. Galuraan Street, 7th Avenue, Grace Park, Caloocan.

Investigators at the Navotas Women's and Children's Concerned Desk said Merly claimed that her father had been raping her at least four times a week. The last incident, she said, occurred on the early morning of June 9 while she was sleeping inside their house on M. Naval Street, San Roque, Navotas.

Police said Aporillo had been visiting Merly, the youngest among his three children, in their house in Navotas after he and wife Rosalinda Escaluna, 35, parted ways years ago.

Rosalinda, who reportedly lives with another man on Bagong Silang, Del Pan, Binondo, Manila, told police that Aporillo, who also has his own family, had been raping their daughter since she was 11 years old.

Merly said she could not stop her father's beastly acts as the latter had been threatening to kill her two siblings.

The father also threatened to stop sending her to school.

Merly found the courage to reveal her ordeal to the barangay only last Monday night.

Police are now conducting follow up operations against the suspect.

Tina Santos

Nayon conversion called illegal

A MEMBER of the Pasay City Council has described as illegal the planned conversion of a portion of the Nayong Pilipino into an access road and additional taxiway for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

Airport officials should first seek the reclassification of Nayon from an institutional park to a utility area before they could take over its 8.6-hectare property, said Councilor Allan Panaligan, head of the council's committees on engineering and public works and on patrimony, land use and zoning.

"As an institutional park, Nayon cannot be converted into a residential area or an airport facility," Panaligan said Monday night.

"There were also attempts in the past to convert the park into a commercial area but we vehemently opposed them," he added.

Unless the reclassification has been approved by the city council, Naia officers cannot proceed with the clearing of the Nayon property on June 25 to pave the way for the construction of the airport facilities, the councilor said.

"If that happens, we will have no choice but to stop the clearing."

The Nayong Pilipino management gave its go-signal for the Naia to acquire a portion of the theme park in a memorandum of agreement that both parties signed on May 8.

The agreement authorized the closure of the park on June 25, with the Nayon management receiving P50 million as initial payment for the acquisition of its property. The remaining P450 million of the compensation package will be paid by 2004.

Christian V. Esguerra

Abu Sayyaf should be given no quarters

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

NOW that their last remaining hostages are already gone (two dead, the third rescued), the Abu Sayyaf men are fleeing like wild pigs being hunted in the mountains of Zamboanga del Norte.

They should not be given quarters by pursuing government troops. Every one of them should be killed. No one should be taken prisoners.

Those Moros, anyway, believe that if they die at the hands of "infidels", they will go to heaven riding a white horse and young virgins will meet them at the gates of heaven.

***

The remaining Abu Sayyaf terrorists in Basilan and Sulu must also be hunted down and annihilated.

Unless all of the Abu Sayyaf terrorists involved in the Sipadan hostage crisis, the kidnapping of teachers and students in Basilan, and the Dos Palmas kidnapping are annihilated, kidnappings in that part of Mindanao will go on and on and on.

The Abu Sayyaf bandits have become idols to young Moro boys and even adults. Killing them and publicizing their gory end at the hands of government troops will discourage future kidnappers and terrorists.

***

And since the US is willing to pour in large amounts to rehabilitate Basilan and nearby places in the South, why can't the government ask Uncle Sam to allocate a budget for the education of the Muslim out-of-school youths?

Most of the young Muslims, who joined the Abu Sayyaf as couriers or even as regular members, belonged to very poor families who couldn't afford to send them to school. Muslims who symphatize with the bandits and terrorists are too ignorant to know the difference between right and wrong.

The government should also address the root causes of poverty in the area.

In solving the Moro insurgency and banditry problems, the government should speak softly but at the same time carry a big stick.

***

Customs collector Billy Bibit was ready to assume his new post at the Cebu port when he was told he could not because of the election ban.

Government personnel cannot be reshuffled one month before and after the election. The barangay election is set for July 15.

But Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo is dead set to replace the current Cebu customs chief, John Tan, with Bibit.

***

Tan has done his best as Cebu customs collector. But as far as Bernardo is concerned, Tan's best is not good enough.

The customs commissioner would want Bibit, a disobedient official, to take the place of a very compliant customs collector.

Bernardo's reason for replacing Tan with Bibit is that the latter exceeded collection target at the Subic Freeport Zone when he was its collector.

***

But Bernardo forgets that any customs official placed in Subic would meet or even surpass the revenue collection target because of the big volume of shipments landing in that port.

Even the most inefficient customs collector would be able to meet his target at the Subic freeport, according to some customs officials I talked with.

Many customs officials are disheartened by Bernardo's choice of Bibit for the plum post when there are other more competent and obedient collectors.

***

Bibit's assignment at the much-coveted post has also raised eyebrows among the Cebu media. Most journalists at the "Queen City of the South" believe that Bibit in Cebu is like the proverbial fox placed inside a poultry house.

But Bernardo has given the assurance that his appointment of Bibit to the Cebu port was made aboveboard. The customs chief also wanted to squelch speculations that he promised Bibit the Cebu post so the intransigent official would follow his orders transferring him to the Clark Economic Zone from the Subic port.

Bernardo said that Bibit will immediately be replaced if he performs below par in Cebu.

***

One good thing about Bibit's assignment in Cebu is that he cannot commit glaring irregularities like he did at the Subic Freeport because of the very vigilant Cebu media.

His very action will be subject to scrutiny by Cebu's snoopy reporters.

Bibit will probably turn in a new leaf as Cebu customs collector.

***

Starting today and in the days when I have the materials, this column will feature the "Who's this?" corner.

In the "Who's this?" corner, I will write about unnamed government officials or private individuals who take it out on poor Juan dela Cruz using their positions or stations.

A brilliant legal mind who's a friend, as well as my lawyer in many libel cases, suggested the "Who's this" corner to avoid libel suits.

"So long as the government official or private individual alluded to is not identifiable, you are safe from a libel suit," said my lawyer friend.

However, if I have chockfull of evidence I won't hesitate to name the abusive or corrupt public official. The "Who's this?" corner will only be resorted to if the evidence this writer has is scanty.

***

So here goes:

Who's this former top official of the Department of Tourism who swindled a big foreign gaming firm of $25 million supposedly as "acceptance fee" for that firm to operate a gambling casino in the country?"

Here's a clue: if you are a casino habitue, you always bump into this former DOT official.

That official lost all the money in the gambling casinos. He was supposed to hand the money over to his boss, the president at the time.

The foreign gambling firm did not get the license.

Full force . . .

(From page A21)

Last Sunday, Japanese Shuhei Uchida, 69, married, of Gilarmi Apartments, Ayala Avenue, Makati City and a consultant of the MRT Line 2 project, fell prey to the gang.

Uchida told Makati police that at around 10:30 a.m., while on his way home from a barber shop on Pasay Road, an unidentified man introduced himself as an executive of the HSBC.

The Japanese said he boarded a gray car with the suspect and a driver, was offered a canned juice drink, and later passed out. Bystanders found him on a street corner and took him to the hospital, the police said.

The victim said that the suspects took his wallet, an Omega wristwatch, and P1,000 cash.

Korean diplomat Chung was also abducted in Makati City on the night of June 6 by a man who also identified himself as a vice president of the HSBC.

Israeli Broudo Gordechai was abducted while waiting for a taxi at the Glorietta shopping center on May 30.

The man who kidnapped Gordechai also identified himself as a vice president of the HSBC, police said.

Gordechai surfaced the next day and immediately left the country, the Makati Police said.

On June 8, two vendors found New Zealander Peter Holyoeke unconscious on Jupiter Street in Makati City. Police believed he was also a victim of the Ativan Gang.

Both Gordechai and Holyoeke refused to cooperate with the Makati Police.

Chung's death drew the ire of Korean officials who on Tuesday demanded the immediate resolution of the case.

In Seoul, South Korean Foreign Minister Choi Sung-Hong called on Philippine Ambassador Juanito Jarasa, urging Philippine authorities to "clarify the exact cause of the death and arrest (the killers) at an early date."

MANILA FILM FESTIVAL MOTORCADE WITH THE STARS
Manila Mayor Lito Atienza (right photo) is joined by Councilor Marjun Isidro and Mrs Beng Atienza as he reaches out to the crowd during the city-wide Manila Film Festival motorcade last Monday. Top right shows "Magkapatid" stars Sharon Cuneta, Judy Ann Santos and Dingdong Dantes, with Councilor Miles Roces. Above, "Mama San" stars Elizabeth Oropesa and Jenine Desiderio are joined on the float by Councilor Boy Isip.

'Sundin ang Loob Mo' highlights Padre Pio's canonization

VIEWFINDE

Nestor U. Torre

ON SUNDAY, June 16, **Padre Pio**, the stigmatist-priest, will be canonized a saint of the Roman Catholic Church by **Pope John Paul II** at the Vatican. Since Padre Pio is well-loved in the Philippines, many Filipinos are flying to Rome to witness the canonization rites firsthand.

But what about the many more Filipinos who can't do that? How can they honor Padre Pio on his day of days? By reading about his inspiring life, certainly. By praying for his intercession (new saints are supposed to be extra-influential in this regard)—of course!

A third option has been acted on by a group of theater artists: Against all odds, and as a labor of love, they have come up with a play on the life of Padre Pio, designed as a portable touring production to be presented all over the country.

The play, "Sundin ang Loob Mo—Buhay at Pag-aalay ni Padre Pio," had its first performance in Parañaque last June 12, and will have a very special presentation on June 16, Padre Pio's canonization day itself, at the church of the Mabuting Pastol Parish, Rotary Drive, National Government Center Housing project, Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City.

The place isn't easy to get to, but the artists involved in the play on Padre Pio have chosen it for their "canonization day" venue because it means a lot to them: years ago, they presented the popular "Magnificat" musical of **Ryan Cayabyab** as a fundraising presentation, and the money raised was used to complete the construction of the parish church. The play on Padre Pio will be presented in the church that their "Magnificat" performance helped build, so, to these theater artists, there's a lot of significance and dovetailing in that.

Rito Asilo, who portrayed Jesus Christ in "Magnificat" and now has the great honor of playing Padre Pio now, speaks for the rest of the cast when he says, "The life of Padre Pio speaks eloquently to all people, but particularly to the poor, because he himself had a complete poverty of possessions and spirit that should inspire us all.

"He was so committed to his work as a priest, particularly as a confessor, that he sometimes heard confessions for as long as 15 hours a day, a staggering schedule that enabled him to serve literally millions of people in his lifetime."

What does Rito find most challenging about giving life to Padre Pio's character? "His absolute devotion to God, and his utter humility. His devotion made it possible for him to bear the pain of his stigmata for decades, in addition to other trials.

"As for his humility, it must have been daunting to behold. There he was, a living saint in the eyes of many, and yet he sincerely regarded himself as a craven sinner, because he saw his own soul through the eyes of God. Having to portray such a rigorously saintly person is a humbling experience, indeed."

Aside from Rito, the play on Padre Pio features other veteran talents from the longrunning "Magnificat" presentation, like **Andy Bais**, **Shiela Asuncion** and gifted child actress **Niña**.

Since the play is a touring production, they play a variety of roles, as do similarly sterling actors like **Catherine Estabillo**, **Janice Cruz**, **Ray Manalo**, **Jocelyn Valle**, **Dolores Arao** and outstanding child actor **Daryl Diongzon**.

With the performance of "Sundin ang Loob Mo" on June 16, the Philippines joins the rest of the Catholic world in a very special way, honoring Saint Padre Pio on the day of his canonization, not just with prayers, but with a play on his life, which Rito and his theater colleagues hope will inspire many Filipinos to also live better lives, in the service of God and others.

The parish priest of Mabuting Pastol is Fr. **Guido Everaert**, CICM.

After June 16, the play on Padre Pio is slated to be performed in Pampanga, Masbate, Naga and different places in Metro Manila. If you wish to have the play performed in your parish, school, office or other venues, call Pablo at 713-9323 and 0917-9893089.

'Events are still taking place . . .'

From page A28

songs cannot be changed. They're Rodgers and Hammerstein and they're beautiful as they are."

Lea will do "Flower Drum Song" in Broadway for 10 months, with eight performances a week.

"At least we no longer have back-to-back matinees on Saturdays and Sundays, which was what we did in LA," she said. "Now there's a Wednesday matinee, Saturday and Sunday. We have Mondays off then we all go back on Tuesday night."

She is proud about being given a second chance on Broadway after "Miss Saigon."

"So now I don't know if I'm still passionate to do 'Evita' because there's this new show and it's something I can put my stamp on. Given an opportunity like that, I don't know now if I want to take something that someone else has put a stamp on and try to make it my own because you'll be working twice as hard. The new generation of people who will watch 'Flower Drum' will identify it with my voice."

US tour

She laments that she can't even come home for the holidays. After her 10-month contract in Broadway, she is going on a US concert tour.

"I'll be stuck there for a while. The earliest that I can come home is probably in early 2004."

During her once-a-week break from theater, Lea plans to "catch up on sleep, do errands, the laundry, go to the bank, clean my Manhattan apartment, see fans and friends, go to the grocery store, get my paycheck, go to Jersey City or shop at Woodbury Commons."

"I'll do whatever it is that I would not have had the chance to do during the week," she said.

She is interested in going back to school and plans to squeeze in a few units at Fordham University during the day. In her first year at Fordham, she took up philosophy and history. This time, she wants to major in psychology.

"The show will only take up at the very most four hours of my day, so I don't have anything to do on daytime," she said.

"I know my work is so irregular, so I'll go back to school whenever I can. I've experienced a lot in my life and I don't feel like I'm being shortchanged. One of my priorities is to get a formal education. That's something that no one can take away."

She regrets that she can't drive her new Lexus in New York. She learned how to drive while in California.

Ground Zero

So how does it feel returning to New York after the Sept. 11 tragedy?

"It was a bit strange. I was curious to see what Ground Zero looked like. The first time I went back last March, it was very strange. What used to stand there were two huge buildings, but now there's only a big hole in the ground. There were still trucks faithfully clearing all the debris from the site."

Working in New York means being away from her current flame, a Chinese-Japanese businessman based in LA.

"He's sad when I have to leave LA for work," she said. "He's really sweet about it but he understands. Especially with 'Flower Drum' coming up, it's an opportunity that doesn't happen very often to Asian actors.

"He knows that chances like this are chances of a lifetime. I have been given one chance and now I have another chance so I'm very fortunate. He just wants to make sure I'll come home after it's all over and he shouldn't worry about that."

Hard to find

Lea's eyes light up when she talks about her boyfriend who specializes in customer relations technology.

"When I first got to know him, I told myself, 'This is the embodiment of everything I ever fell in love with and every guy I ever had a relationship with.' That's hard to find."

They met in November through one of the girls in "Flower Drum Song" who is his cousin.

"When I was no longer in a relationship and we started technical rehearsals in LA, Chris (the cousin) heard about it and she said, 'You should go out with my cousin.' I told her, 'I don't know.'

"Then the opportunity presented itself. At a party, she made sure Rob and I sat beside each other and talked. She encouraged things. Rob and I just got along. Then we exchanged phone numbers.

"One day, he called me on my cell phone and asked me if I wanted to eat Korean food because during the party, we discovered this Korean food, *soon to fu*, that we really, really liked.

"The first conversation we had on the phone lasted two hours and I couldn't believe it. It's been a long time since I had a conversation that long with anyone. Then we talked again the next day and we started talking everyday and every conversation was always so wonderful. So when we finally went out, it was like we knew each other pretty well and we had a good time."

Stability

Lea admits it didn't take a long courtship before she got seriously involved with Rob. It helped that he is not an actor like her previous Korean-American boyfriend, Michael Lee, who was paired with her in the Philippine production of "They're Playing Our Song."

"There's a little more stability with somebody who's isn't an actor," Lea maintained. "I have nothing against actors but the nature of the job is very volatile and unstable. You go where the work is and that can be anywhere, whether New York City, Chicago or Singapore. The foundations are not so set. I have to be with someone whose feet are firmly planted on the ground."

Rob appears to be just the perfect match for Lea. Last January, he came to the Philippines for the first time, to watch her in "Proof" and the first staging of the Broadway concert at the PICC.

"He saw me in 'Flower Drum' in LA, but I don't know if he knew who I was here. He saw 'Miss Saigon' only on video of the Manila production when he came here, but he never saw me play. Kim. He didn't know the story of Kim and he didn't know the ending so for a first-timer seeing it, the reaction was raw. He was emotionally overwhelmed. It was fun to watch the show with somebody who has never seen it before. Then I saw him crying."

ROB'S GIRL. Her boyfriend is "the embodiment of everything I ever fell in love with," says Lea.

Best thing

Rob will arrive in Manila a few days before the PICC concert, she said.

Lea, now 31, thought a long time when asked about the best thing that has happened in her life.

"I don't know if there is one best thing because one thing that I think is the best leads to something that turns out really good, and then it leads to another thing and then something else," she said.

"But I guess the best thing that I ever decided to do was to audition for 'Miss Saigon' because it led to one major chain of events that's still taking place now and making my life a really happy one.

"I learned to enjoy the really good moments that come for all they're worth because tomorrow, things may be different. Today you may be the hottest thing, tomorrow you're nobody."

For Lea Salonga, "life has been good."

Expecting . . .

From page A26

obviously adores Jessica's kids like they're his very own. He can hardly wait for Jessica to give birth to their firstborn. "I grab any baby in sight and ask the mom if I could carry the baby even for a while. I want to get a lot of practice this early!"

Jessica was her usual sexy self. Imagine a pregnant woman in a body–hugging tank top and denims. Only Jessica can pull that off, although by her standards she's already fat. I told her, "If you call that fat, then I'm obese!"

She said her prized ward, **Patricia Javier**, is now dating **Paolo Montalban**. Yes, the Pinoy hunk who has penetrated Hollywood and was chosen by People Magazine as one of the world's beautiful people.

"They really click," Jessica said. "Patricia likes the rugged appeal of Paolo and is smitten by his intelligence."

Tulfo vs Tulfo?

I'M eagerly awaiting to be the maid of honor at the wedding of **Vic Victoria** and **Cathy Tulfo**, *Tito* **Ramon Tulfo**'s *unica hija*.

Always the bridesmaid, never the bride, as the cliché goes. Guess I have to bribe someone to make me his bride.

The Tulfos are an incredible family of achievers. They fight for what's right with all their might. What's this we heard that **Erwin Tulfo**'s "Mission X" on ABS-CBN might be moved and could be in a head-on collision with **Raffy Tulfo**'s "Task Force Siyasat" (ABC 5 Wed 10:30 pm)? Raffy is fast gaining a captive audience with his aggressive and hard-hitting style of reporting.

Knowing the Tulfo brothers, this will be a "*walang personalan, trabaho lang po*" thing. No sibling rivalry brewing? Let's wait and see how the two dashing Tulfo guys are different yet equal.

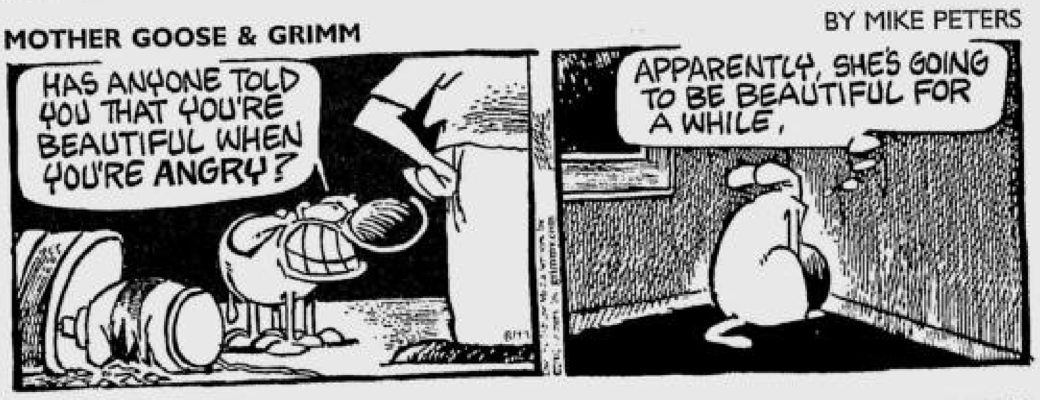
Personal

THANKS a billion to **Tess Mendoza**, Doctors **Del** and **Chat** of Chi-Med Asia for coming to the rescue! Bless your super-sized hearts!

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

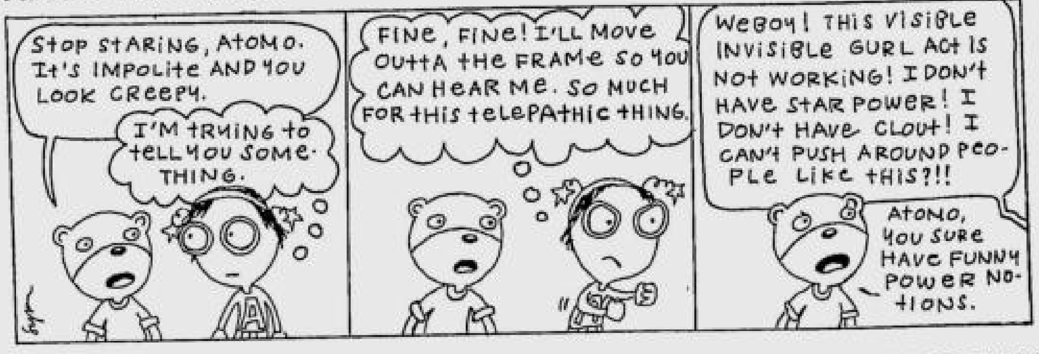
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


HAS ANYONE TOLD YOU THAT YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL WHEN YOU'RE ANGRY?
APPARENTLY, SHE'S GOING TO BE BEAUTIFUL FOR A WHILE.

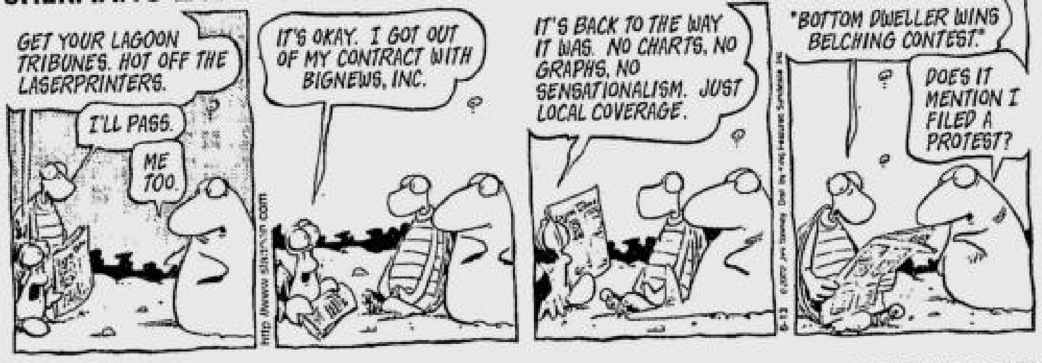
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


STOP STARING, ATOMO. IT'S IMPOLITE AND YOU LOOK CREEPY.
I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.
FINE, FINE! I'LL MOVE OUTTA THE FRAME SO YOU CAN HEAR ME. SO MUCH FOR THIS TELEPATHIC THING.
WEBOY! THIS VISIBLE INVISIBLE GURL ACT IS NOT WORKING! I DON'T HAVE STAR POWER! I DON'T HAVE CLOUT! I CAN'T PUSH AROUND PEOPLE LIKE THIS?!!
ATOMO, YOU SURE HAVE FUNNY POWER NOTIONS.

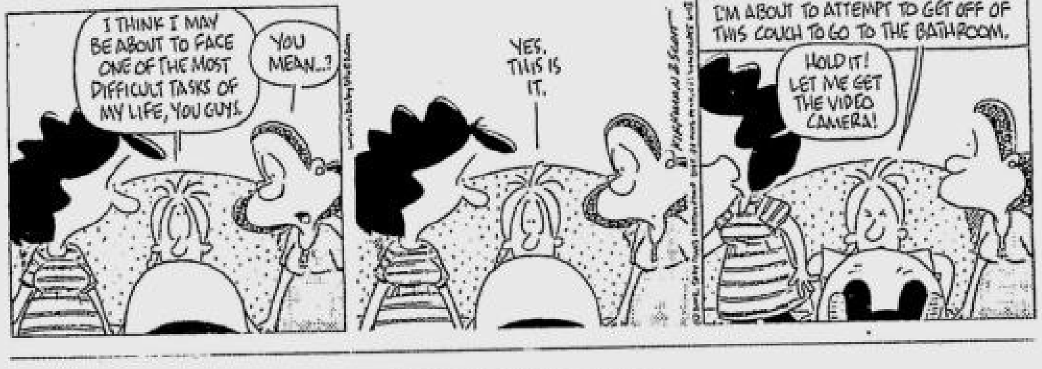
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


GET YOUR LAGOON TRIBUNES. HOT OFF THE LASERPRINTERS.
I'LL PASS.
ME TOO.
IT'S OKAY. I GOT OUT OF MY CONTRACT WITH BIGNEWS, INC.
IT'S BACK TO THE WAY IT WAS. NO CHARTS, NO GRAPHS, NO SENSATIONALISM. JUST LOCAL COVERAGE.
"BOTTOM DWELLER WINS BELCHING CONTEST."
DOES IT MENTION I FILED A PROTEST?
http://www.slingshot.com

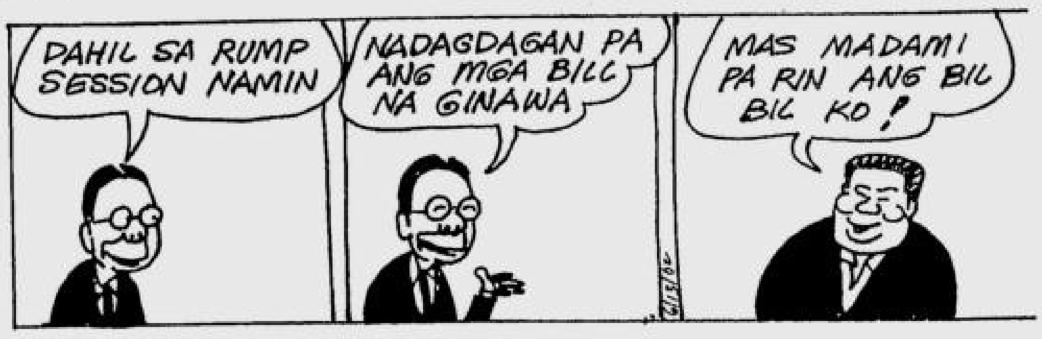
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I THINK I MAY BE ABOUT TO FACE ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT TASKS OF MY LIFE, YOU GUYS.
YOU MEAN...?
YES. THIS IS IT.
I'M ABOUT TO ATTEMPT TO GET OFF OF THIS COUCH TO GO TO THE BATHROOM.
HOLD IT! LET ME GET THE VIDEO CAMERA!

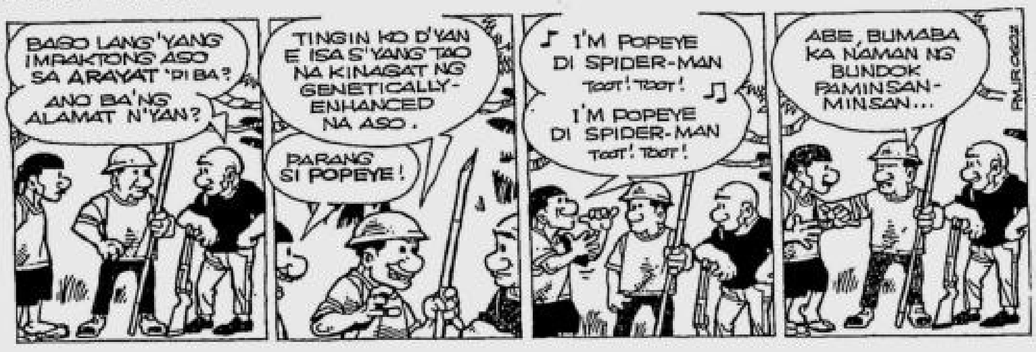
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DAHIL SA RUMP SESSION NAMIN
NADAGDAGAN PA ANG MGA BILL NA GINAWA
MAS MADAMI PA RIN ANG BIL BIL KO!

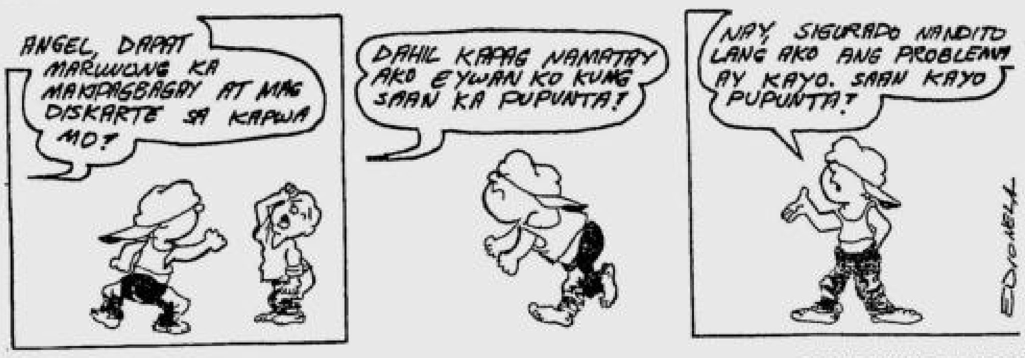
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAGO LANG 'YANG IMPAKTONG ASO SA ARAYAT 'DI BA?
ANO BA'NG ALAMAT N'YAN?
TINGIN KO D'YAN E ISA S'YANG TAO NA KINAGAT NG GENETICALLY-ENHANCED NA ASO.
PARANG SI POPEYE!
I'M POPEYE DI SPIDER-MAN TOOT! TOOT!
I'M POPEYE DI SPIDER-MAN TOOT! TOOT!
ABE, BUMABA KA NAMAN NG BUNDOK PAMINSAN-MINSAN...

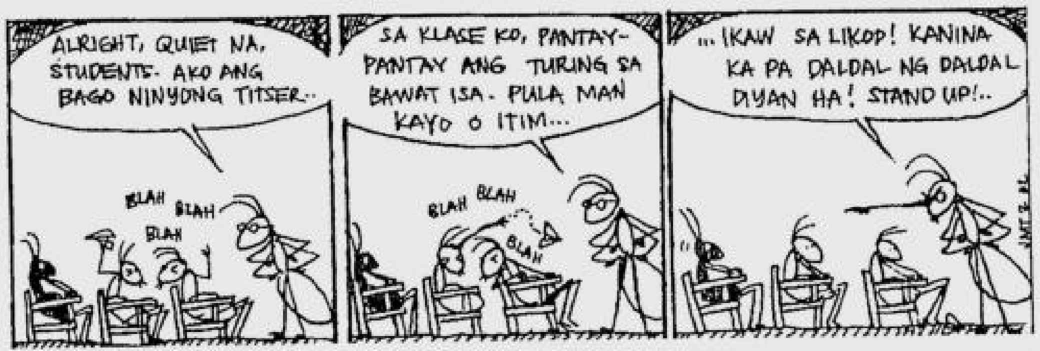
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL, DAPAT MARUNONG KA MAKIPAGBAGAY AT MAG DISKARTE SA KAPWA MO?
DAHIL KAPAG NAMATAY AKO EYWAN KO KUNG SAAN KA PUPUNTA!
NAY, SIGURADO NANDITO LANG AKO ANG PROBLEMA AY KAYO. SAAN KAYO PUPUNTA?
EDIONELA

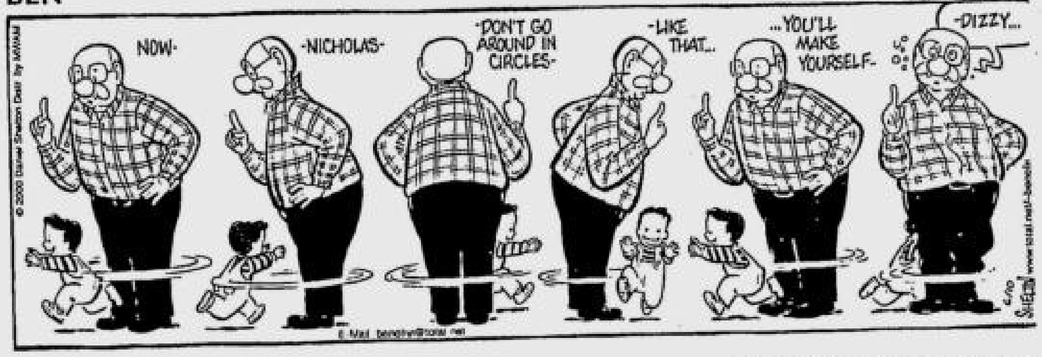
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ALRIGHT, QUIET NA, STUDENTS. AKO ANG BAGO NINYONG TITSER.
BLAH BLAH BLAH
SA KLASE KO, PANTAY-PANTAY ANG TURING SA BAWAT ISA. PULA MAN KAYO O ITIM...
BLAH BLAH BLAH
...IKAW SA LIKOD! KANINA KA PA DALDAL NG DALDAL DIYAN HA! STAND UP!..

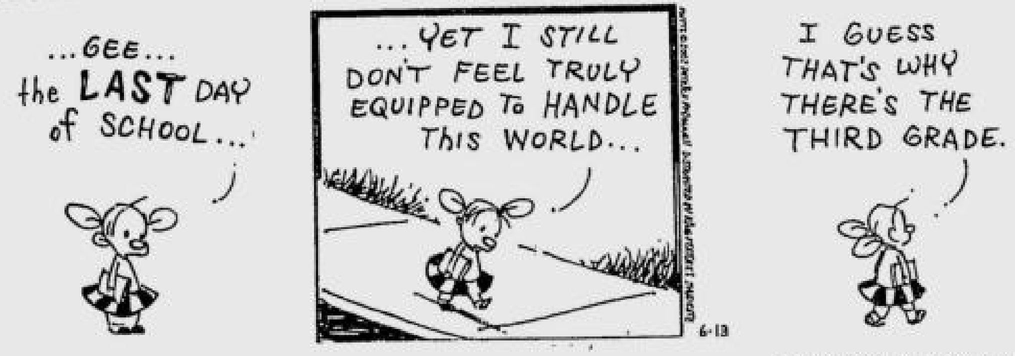
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


NOW-
-NICHOLAS-
-DON'T GO AROUND IN CIRCLES-
-LIKE THAT...
...YOU'LL MAKE YOURSELF-
-DIZZY...

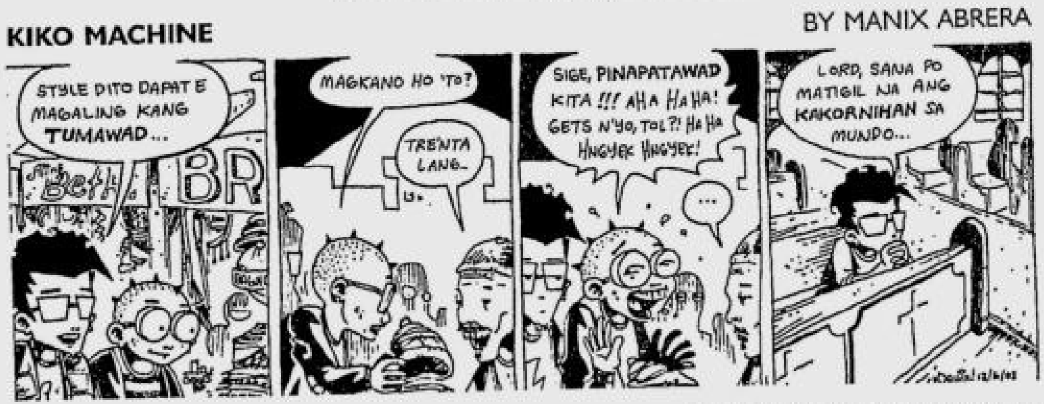
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


...GEE... the LAST DAY of SCHOOL...
...YET I STILL DON'T FEEL TRULY EQUIPPED TO HANDLE THIS WORLD...
I GUESS THAT'S WHY THERE'S THE THIRD GRADE.
6-13

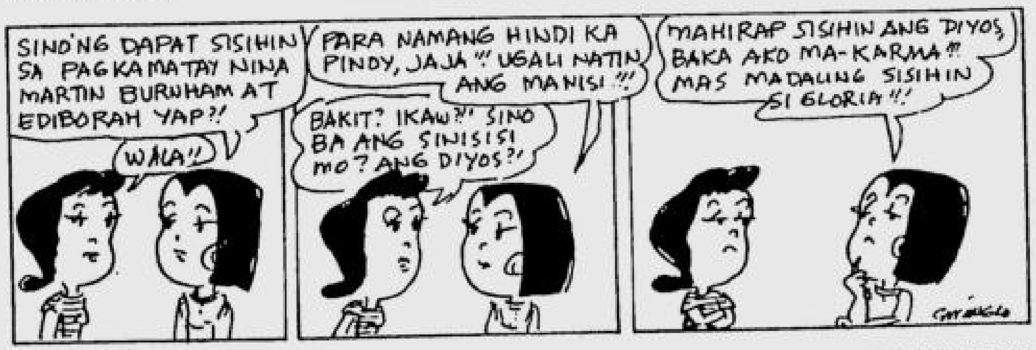
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


STYLE DITO DAPAT E MAGALING KANG TUMAWAD...
MAGKANO HO 'TO?
TRENTA LANG.
SIGE, PINAPATAWAD KITA!!! AHA HAHA! GETS N'YO, TOL?! HAHA HNGYEK HNGYEK!
...
LORD, SANA PO MATIGIL NA ANG KAKORNIHAN SA MUNDO...

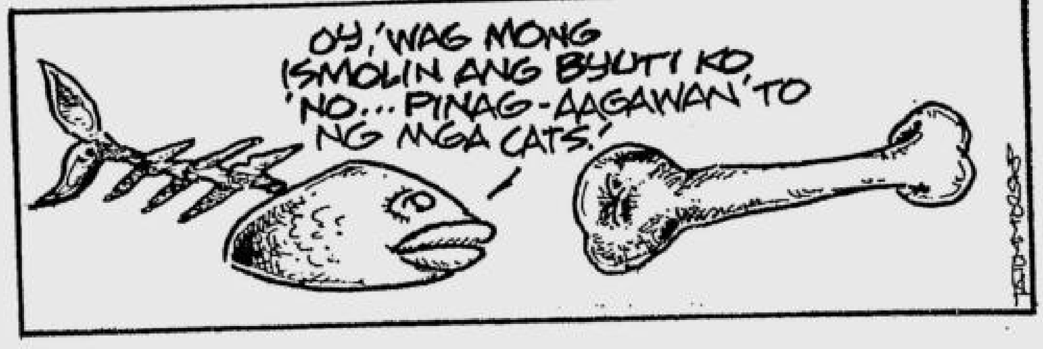
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SINO'NG DAPAT SISIHIN SA PAGKAMATAY NINA MARTIN BURNHAM AT EDIBORAH YAP?!
WALA!!
PARA NAMANG HINDI KA PINOY, JAJA!! UGALI NATIN ANG MANISI!!
BAKIT? IKAW?! SINO BA ANG SINISISI MO? ANG DIYOS?!
MAHIRAP SISIHIN ANG DIYOS, BAKA AKO MA-KARMA!! MAS MADALING SISIHIN SI GLORIA!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, 'WAG MONG ISMOLIN ANG BYUTI KO, 'NO... PINAG-AAGAWAN 'TO NG MGA CATS!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ashley and Mary-Kate Olsen, Tim Allen, Christo

Happy Birthday: You can move into a position of leadership this year. Romance is likely to surface through the company you keep and the groups you join. Your insight into future trends will enable you to make the right choices. Self-indulgence will result if you don't busy yourself with helping those less fortunate. Your numbers are 2, 8, 12, 25, 30, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Avoid arguments with friends or colleagues. Go to the gym or get involved in a competitive sport. Keeping extremely busy will help you get through the day without a hitch.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will learn a great deal if you listen to what your friends have to say. It not be directed at you but if you apply it to your situation you will find yourself ahead of the game.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't hesitate to set up an interview if you happen across a job that looks interesting. Moneymaking propositions are apparent.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It may be hard for you to contain the way you feel. Your emotions will be close to the surface and you may find yourself complaining and nagging. Take a step back and be objective.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make some changes to your home that will add to its entertainment value. Secret activities may be made available to you but you should think twice before you take part.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get out and see what's going on in your neighborhood. You can make some new friends if you take part in community events. You need a change of pace but you need to make the effort.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Good things are coming your way. Don't let your emotional ups and downs stand in your way. You may be judged by the job you're working on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your ability to talk to strangers will enable you to discover new possibilities. Attending a conference or seminar will help you to understand the nature of the business you are in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You've been burning the candle at both ends and it's time to give yourself a rest. Your financial situation will improve if you move some of your money to a safer haven.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will probably feel that the people you deal with today are demanding but the problem may be with you. Be understanding and willing to see both sides of any issue that arises.

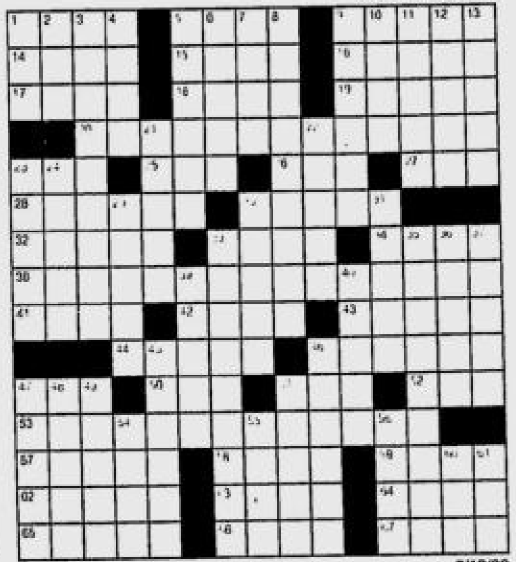
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your ability to be creative in your everyday activities, including your job, will help you attract new friends. Share your talents with those who can appreciate your gift.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Decide what it is you would like to do in order to spice up your looks and your life. It's time to make changes that will allow you the freedom to do the things you enjoy. Don't procrastinate any longer.

Birthday Baby: You will enjoy advanced studies in philosophy, agriculture or archeology. You will not want to travel unless absolutely necessary. You will receive help and support from those in positions of authority. You will protect your reputation, no matter what.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

6/13/02

ACROSS
1 Rounds or clips, e.g.
5 Perched on
9 Embroidered loop
14 Type of shark?
15 Summon
16 Leghorn location
17 Nautical left
18 Operatic melody
19 Temporary paper money
20 Beginning of quip
23 Favorite
25 Constantine's birthplace
26 Tango team
27 PGA prop
28 Ohio city near Cleveland
30 Jibs
32 Sublease a flat
33 Front of the call
34 Mine entrance
38 Part 2 of quip
41 Evening in Milano
42 Sorry 'bout that
43 Story so far
44 Uses a microwave?
46 Impart
47 Circle segment
50 Lah-di-__
51 Mayday!
52 Born in Paris
53 End of quip
57 Come to terms
58 Greek letters
59 Operatic prima donna
62 Monarch
63 Unclothed
64 "National Velvet" writer Bagnold
65 Escritoires
66 Molt
67 Matured

DOWN
1 High peak
2 Bovine comment
3 A Moore
4 Not fooled by
5 Gum arabic tree
6 Tony Curtis movie, "__ Bulba"
7 Lena or Ken
8 Banana cousins
9 Six-shooter
10 Restless craving
11 Jeweler's measure
12 Popeye's sweetheart
13 Herman Melville novel
21 Singleness
22 Payable
23 French fathers
24 French student
29 Broadcast again
30 Passers in the night?
31 Sub-Saharan region
33 Loafer levers
35 Pouring oil wine
36 Fuming
37 Plains dwelling
39 Hungarian wine
40 Take forcibly
45 Cow organs
46 Wakened
47 Symbol of achievement
48 Scoundrel
49 Ringlets
51 Josiah of china
54 Onionlike plant
55 Casual negative
56 Thought
60 Contend
61 Put two and two together

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	V	I	S	■	C	A	L	E	B	■	E	R	L	E
M	A	T	T	■	O	L	I	V	E	■	B	A	A	L
I	L	S	A	■	F	I	N	E	D	■	A	M	O	K
S	O	N	G	O	F	N	O	R	W	A	Y	■	■	■
S	R	O	■	P	I	E	■	M	A	L	■	R	A	T
■	■	B	O	U	N	D	F	O	R	G	L	O	R	Y
A	E	O	N	S	■	■	A	R	F	■	A	B	E	L
B	A	T	T	■	V	A	N	E	S	■	B	E	T	E
O	S	H	A	■	A	R	C	■	■	S	O	R	E	R
D	E	E	P	I	N	M	Y	H	E	A	R	T	■	■
E	R	R	■	N	F	L	■	A	A	A	■	B	R	A
■	■	■	S	T	L	O	U	I	S	B	L	U	E	S
D	I	V	A	■	E	A	R	L	E	■	E	R	I	C
A	R	A	B	■	E	D	S	E	L	■	A	N	N	O
M	E	N	U	■	T	S	A	R	S	■	P	S	S	T

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6/12/02

Fund-raising gala for musicians

CHAN

"GABI ng Musikang Pilipino," a fund-raising gala for a trust fund of sick musicians, goes onstage at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 14 at the Manila Cathedral.

The event is spearheaded by talk show host Heidi O. Sison and social worker Corazon Alma de Leon, with strong support from different sectors.

Singers and musicians led by Sylvia La Torre and Imelda Papin are performing for only token honorarium fees. Joining them are Jose Mari Chan, Janet Basco, Nolyn Cabahug, Elizabeth Ramsey, Carlo Orosa, Ariel Rivera, the Apo Hiking Society, Jamie Rivera, Geneva Cruz, Pangkat Kawayan dance troupe and the Mabuhay Singers.

Sponsors and donors for the concert include Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, Lulu de Villa, Remedios Calma, Jesus de Villa, Sen. Tessie Oreta, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Gil Chua, Leni Castillo, Egay San Luis and other anonymous individuals.

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING
EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	DISKARTE
2 (SDDS)	MAMASAN
3 (DTS)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 GOLD (DTS)	STAR WARS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	DRAGONFLY
6 GOLD (SDDS)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	MAGKAPATID
8	SUPER B
9	MAGKAPATID
10	UTANG NI TATANG

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3 (DTS)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'MIN LOVE

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID
6	UTANG NI TATANG
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1 JUNE 18 & 19 "SUM OF ALL FEARS"

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	MAGKAPATID
2	STAR WARS

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	SUPER B
2	MAGKAPATID
3	

Spring
(Liberlad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	SUPER B
A	MAGKAPATID

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	SUPER B
3	MAGKAPATID
4	UTANG NI TATANG

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1 (DOLBY)	UTANG NI TATANG
2	
3	
4	DISKARTE
5	MAMASAN
6	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
7 (DTS)	SUPER B
8 (SDDS)	MAGKAPATID
9 (DOLBY)	UTANG NI TATANG

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	UTANG NI TATANG

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 (SDDS)	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID
6 (DOLBY)	UTANG NI TATANG
7 (DTS)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
8	CASS & CARY
9	RESIDENT EVIL

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	
2	
3	
4	SUPER B
5 (SDDS)	MAGKAPATID
6	UTANG NI TATANG
7 (DOLBY)	MAMASAN
8	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3 (DTS)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5 (SDDS)	MAGKAPATID

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	MAGKAPATID

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	DISKARTE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	MAMASAN
Lords	MAGKAPATID
Jennet	UTANG NI TATANG

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	UTANG NI TATANG
2	SUPER B
3	MAGKAPATID

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	UTANG NI TATANG
2	DISKARTE

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	DISKARTE
3 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	DISKARTE
2 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID
3 (DOLBY)	SUPER B
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2 (DOLBY)	MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS)	DISKARTE
4	SUPER B

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	MAGKAPATID
3	PANIC ROOM
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	SUPER B
3 (DOLBY)	PANIC ROOM
4 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 (DTS)	UTANG NI TATANG

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	DISKARTE
2	MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	DEATH TO SMOOCHY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	MAGKAPATID
2	DISKARTE
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	MAGKAPATID
2	DISKARTE
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	AKALA MO
2	KLABOT AT KEMBOT
3	BUKANG BIBIG

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	DISKARTE
2 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	CLOSED

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	MAGKAPATID
3	DISKARTE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	CASS & CARY
3	MAGKAPATID
4	DISKARTE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY SR)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	SUPER B
3 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID
4	DISKARTE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING

THX
Murder by Numbers
CMG INTERNATIONAL

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	SUPER B
5	CASS & CARY
6	UTANG NI TATANG
7	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
8	MAGKAPATID

SM CENTERPOINT
7140522 -7161416

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID
6	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
7	MAGKAPATID
8	A WALK TO REMEMBER
9	UTANG NI TATANG
10	SUPER B

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	DISKARTE
2	RESIDENT EVIL
3	CASS & CARY
4	MAGKAPATID
5	MAMASAN
6	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
7	A WALK TO REMEMBER
8	SUPER B
9	MAGKAPATID
10	UTANG NI TATANG
11	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
12	STAR WARS

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID
6	UTANG NI TATANG
7	DISKARTE
8	MAMASAN
9	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
10	SUPER B
11	MAGKAPATID
12	UTANG NI TATANG

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	MURDER BY NUMBERS
2	RESIDENT EVIL
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
5	CASS & CARY
6	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
7	DISKARTE
8	MAMASAN
9	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
10	MAGKAPATID
11	SUPER B
12	UTANG NI TATANG

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID
6	UTANG NI TATANG
7	RESIDENT EVIL
8	A WALK TO REMEMBER
9	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM SOUTHMALL
8060808

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
6	CASS & CARY
7	SUPER B
8	RESIDENT EVIL
9	MAGKAPATID
10	UTANG NI TATANG

SM CITY CEBU
2313878

1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	PANIC ROOM
3	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5	CASS & CARY
6	LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .
7	SUPER B
8	MAGKAPATID

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	CLOSED
3	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4	SUPER B
5	I THINK I'M LOVE
6	MAGKAPATID
7	CLOSED
8	PANIC ROOM

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	RESIDENT EVIL
2	SUPER B
3	MAMASAN
4	DISKARTE
5	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
6	MAGKAPATID

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2	MAGKAPATID
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	DISKARTE

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820884

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B

SM CITY DAVAO
2970998

1	PANIC ROOM
2	MAGKAPATID
3	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
4	SUPER B
5	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
6	JIHAD WARRIOR

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
1d ADB Avenue Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City

1	MURDER BY NUMBERS
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER

W/ LATE NIGHT SCREENING ON WEEKENDS 6389781-85

Movies are subject to change without prior notice

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS
@ Robinsons Malls
NOW SHOWING

Galleria 632- 9115- 16
633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX	DRAGONFLY
2	DISKARTE
3	MAMASAN
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5	MAGKAPATID
6	SUPER B
7	UTANG NI TATANG
8	A WALK TO REMEMBER
9	RESIDENT EVIL
10	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

1	MAGKAPATID
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID
6	UTANG NI TATANG
7	DISKARTE

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID
6	UTANG NI TATANG
7	A WALK TO REMEMBER
8	RESIDENT EVIL

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID
6	UTANG NI TATANG
7	A WALK TO REMEMBER
8	RESIDENT EVIL

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	DISKARTE
2	MAMASAN
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	MAGKAPATID
6	UTANG NI TATANG

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
2	MAGKAPATID
3	RESIDENT EVIL
4	DEATH TO SMOOCHY
5	PANIC ROOM
6	SUPER B

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1	JIHAD WARRIOR
2	MAGKAPATID
3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4	SUPER B
5	PANIC ROOM
6	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp 875- 1927
961-5318 / 5270

1	MAMASAN
2	SUPER B
3	DISKARTE
4	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5	MAGKAPATID
6	MAGKAPATID

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soon to open.

Enjoy the biggest official movie entries to this year's **Manila Film Festival** starting **June 12, 2002**

- SUPER B
- DISKARTE
- UTANG NI TATANG
- MAMASAN
- I THINK I'M IN LOVE
- MAGKAPATID

For screening and other inquiries pls. contact 687-0593

how-2-reach-us:
email: htc@netasia-mnl.net
http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
call-a-movie 536- 7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Former Bench model sues Bench, talent managers

By Agnes E. Donato
and Leah Salterio

A FORMER model of Bench has sued talent managers Ronald Monteverde and Douglas Quijano and Bench International Inc. chair Ben Chan for allegedly failing to pay for the endorsements and advertisements he did for the clothes company in 1998.

Oliver Hartmann, 17, of Barangay Pinyahan, Diliman, Quezon City, filed the charges of violation of Republic Act No. 7610 before the Quezon City prosecutor's office late Monday afternoon. He is seeking P16.5 million in moral and other damages.

Also named as respondents were Bench president Virgilio Lim, vice president for finance Nenita Lim, general manager Victoria Marasigan, and product manager Bryan Lim.

Hartmann said in his complaint that Monteverde managed to include him in the regular cast of the now-defunct ABS-CBN sitcom "Palibhasa Lalake" after he hired Monteverde's services as talent manager in December 1997.

He said both Monteverde and Quijano, who directed the sitcom, required him to have pictorials modeling Bench products in August 1998. He said they told him the pictorials were "necessary." "Believing these representations, my mother and I kept quiet about these pictorials and endorsements," Hartmann said.

He said he was also required to participate in various activities endorsing Bench, including fashion shows, press conferences and interviews.

"In all these, I was doing everything for free, as no compensation was ever paid to me," he said. "Quijano and Monteverde again represented to me and my mother that the aforesaid activities were not to be paid by Bench, and were to be done for free by me as part of 'pakikisama'."

He said he only found out that he was supposed to be paid for his work after Bench staff member Jojo Liamson asked him and his mother if they had signed the contract with Bench regarding his endorsements.

When they said no, Liamson told them the contract might still be with Quijano, Hartmann said. But he and his mother never saw the contract, he added.

He said that in late 1998, he learned that huge billboards featuring him as a Bench model had been put up in Metropolis Alabang in Muntinlupa City and in Cebu and Davao.

"As it turned out, Quijano, Monteverde and Bench were already taking advantage of me and were exploiting me . . . profiting from what I did, without even compensating me for my work," Hartmann maintained.

Contacted by the INQUIRER, Quijano was surprised that he was included in the lawsuit. He said he merely arranged for an exchange deal with Bench so that the company would dress up the young man for his appearances in "Palibhasa Lalake."

Monteverde said he has not talked to Hartmann for years now.

"When we parted ways, we had a verbal agreement that he would take care of his own negotiations," Monteverde said. "I don't know anyone from Bench. I did not sign any contract with Bench for him."

Monteverde also said Hartmann entered into other deals without his knowledge. "Even when I was still managing him, he did commercials for Close-Up and Eskinol Master and I did not even know about them," Monteverde said.

"I should sue him for breach of contract," he added.

Monteverde said Hartmann should go after Bench if he is seeking payment.

Bench owner Ben Chan clarified that Hartmann was never a regular image model of Bench.

"We only dressed him up but he did not have any contract with us," Chan said.

A HERO WILL RISE.
ON FOUR LEGS.

SCOOBY-DOO
DRAWING CONTEST

MECHANICS:

1. Contest is open to all grade school students in Metro Manila
2. "Theme" : Scooby Doo on a Spooky Adventure "
3. Participants may use any medium (pencil, pen, crayon, craypas, watercolor, etc.)
4. Submit entries in a 1 / 4 size illustration board
5. Attach personal information (name, age, address, telephone number, e-mail address if any) and brief description of artwork at the back of each entry.
6. Only 1 entry per contestant.
7. All entries must be done by participant himself/herself. If proven otherwise, entry will be disqualified and any prize won will be awarded to the next winning entry.
8. Submit entries between June 12 – June 26, 2002; 8 am to 5 pm at Ayala Cinema office located at the 5th Level Glorietta 4 Ayala Center Makati or at Alabang Town Center Cinema Ticket Booth.
9. Entries shall be classified into 2 categories, based on grade level of the participants. These are:
   a. Junior Category – Grades 1 - 3
   b. Advanced Category – Grades 4 - 7
10. 10 students shall be chosen as finalists for each category and will be eligible to participate in the on-the-spot drawing contest (Theme to be announced on the day itself). On-the-spot drawing contest will be held on June 29, 2002 at 1 p.m. at Greenbelt 3 Cinema lobby. Ayala Cinema tickets will be given to all the finalist.
11. The artworks done during the on-the-spot drawing contest shall then be displayed in the cinema lobby's of Glorietta 4, Greenbelt 3 and Alabang Town Center from June 30-July 21, 2002
12. Two winners shall be chosen:
   a. First Place
   b. Runner-up
   * *Non-winning entries that are put on display will each receive a consolation prize.*
13. Criteria for Judging (Total 100%)
   Concept 40%
   The concept should characterize originality of idea/s. It should be unique, fresh and distinctive.
   Creativity 40%
   The artwork demonstrates crafty strokes, synchronized colors, and a combination of elements that completes a masterpiece.
   Impact 20%
   Pertains to the artwork's engagingness and overall appeal to the emotion and one's artistic senses/tastes.
14. All entries shall be considered property of Ayala Cinemas.
15. Finalist for the on-the-spot drawing contest will be notified through registered mail, E-mail and telephone call.
16. Finalist will get a chance to win Scooby Doo premium items, gift certificates from ayala malls merchants, Caltex premium items and more. Prizes must be claimed within 60 days upon notification. They must present proof of identity (ID with Photo, Birth Certificate, etc).
17. For more information, please see flyers and posters or call Ayala Cinemas at 752-7883 (Look for Bunny Lazatin) or 850-8931 (Look for Kenneth Laudit).

AYALA CINEMAS

"Scooby-Doo" and all related indicia are trademarks and copyright of Hanna-Barbera Productions.

Expecting women and anticipating men

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I HAD a blast at the birthday party of **Jessica Rodriguez**'s son **Grant**, who turned 9, at the Basement Play Underground in Rockwell.

While the kids were busy bungee-jumping and rock-climbing, I cornered **Dyan Castillejo** and told her, "You're the shapeliest pregnant woman I've ever seen!"

I was amazed to see her still so fit. If her tummy were not bulging, one would never have an inkling that she's on the family way.

The ever-athletic Dyan revealed her secret: "I never stopped exercising even when I found out I was pregnant. I swim a lot. I'm not one who would be stuck in one corner wearing loose maternity clothes. Women should not let pregnancy be an excuse to become lazy!"

She's hoping for a boy. "I feel I'm kinda old to have another one."

I disagreed. "My! With your stamina, you can have two in a row so your hubby and you should work on the next baby a few months after you deliver."

She giggled. "Not a bad idea, huh?"

Brand-new mom **Bernadette Allyson** was also at the party, the picture of a happy, contented mom. I teased her: "You were such a party girl before. Now *ulirang ina ka na!*" She smiled and said, "Hands-on *talaga kami ni* **Gary (Estrada)** in taking care of **Icee** (their pet name for their 3-month-old daughter **Garielle Bernice**). We don't have a *yaya*. Rotation *kami*. But if and when I get back to TV, we'll have to get a *yaya*.

"I'm taking my time so people will forget that I was an actress/host before and they'll accept me as a newscaster. That's really my original dream. For now, I want to relish every moment with my baby even if it can get tiring sometimes."

Icee is a carbon copy of his mom but she's got her dad's expressive eyebrows. Has "Uncle **Erap**" seen Icee? Berna said, "Not yet. Someday he will."

Daddy-to-be **David Bunevacz**

EXPECTING/ A23

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GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 A WALK TO REMEMBER
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
GP
CINEMA 2 MURDER BY NUMBERS
11:25, 1:45, 4:05, 6:25, 8:45
P 13
All Reserved Seating: P120.00
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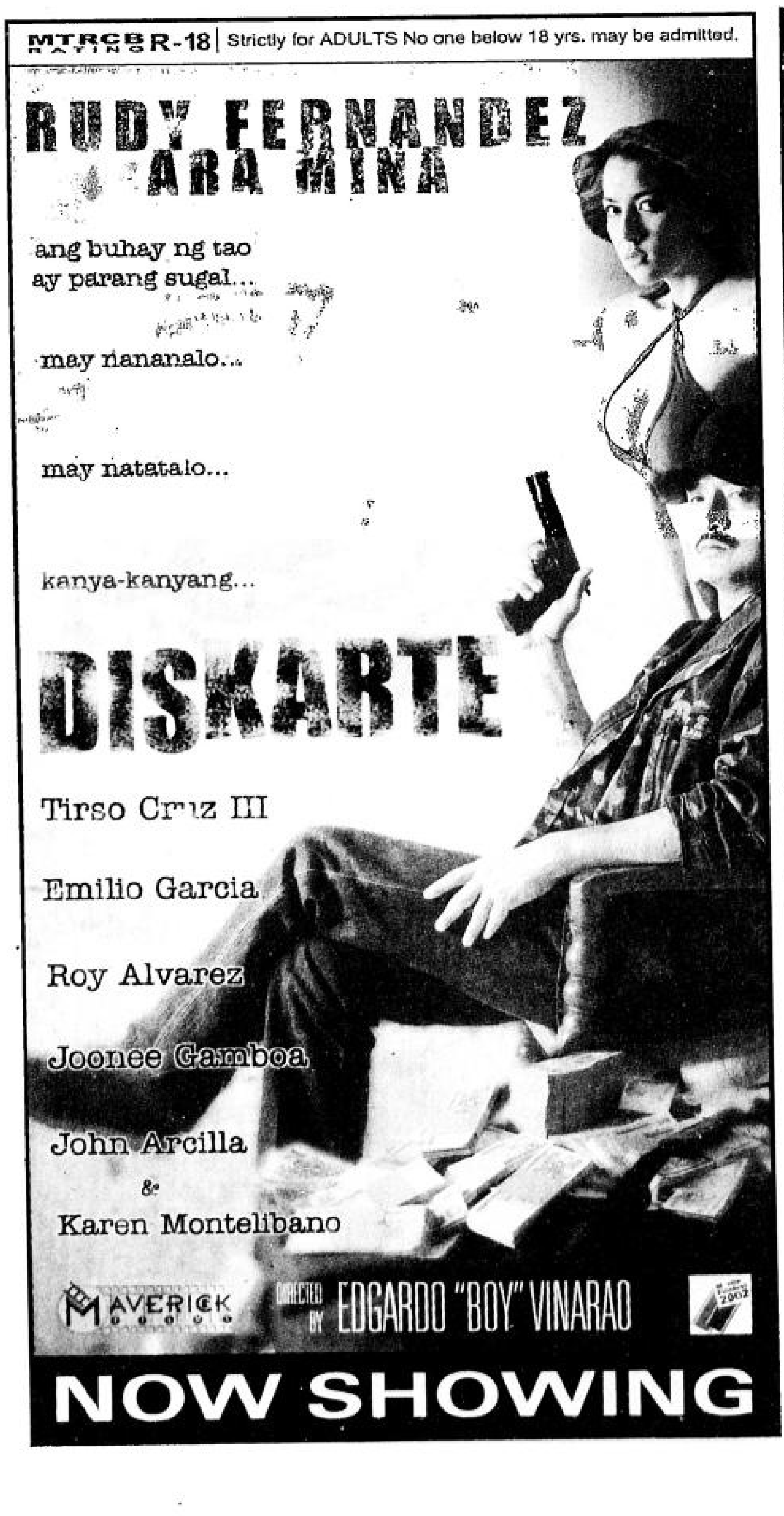
JUNE 15 REIGNE ON TOUR (Regine Velasquez) 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635



MTRCB RATING GP GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED
APAT NA BIGATING PANGALAN
ISANG PELIKULANG 'DI MALILIMUTAN
CHRISTOPHER DE LEON
DINGDONG DANTES
SHARON CUNETA JUDY ANN SANTOS
MAGKAPATID
DIRECTED BY JOEL LAMANGAN
FUJIFILM
VIVA
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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DISKARTE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MAMASAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SUPER B
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	UTANG NI TATANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	MAGKAPATID
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MAGKAPATID
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DISKARTE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR / SAKIM NA PAG IBIG
ODEON	DISKARTE
ODEON-2	MAMASAN
ROBEN	SUPER B
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MAMASAN
REMAR	DISKARTE
REMAR-2	MAMASAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	DISKARTE
B	MAGKAPATID
C	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-2	FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DISKARTE
CINEMA-2	MAMASAN
CINEMA-3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUPER B
CINEMA-6	UTANG NI TATANG
CINEMA-7	CASS & CARY
CINEMA-8	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-12	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
CINEMA-14	DISKARTE
CINEMA-15	SUPER B
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	DRAGONFLY
CINEMA-2	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-3	MURDER BY NUMBERS
CINEMA-4	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-5	PANIC ROOM
CINEMA-6	A WALK TO REMEMBER
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

Special Father's Day show

COMEDIENNE Giselle Sanchez will drive dads crazy with her hilarious antics in "Laffs for Dad," a special Father's Day show presented by Festival Supermall on Friday, June 14, 8 p.m. at the mall's 3rd Level, Chef's Avenue.

A free ticket awaits dads with every food purchase worth P500 (ongoing until June 14) at any of the restaurants at Chef's Avenue—Seattle's Best Coffee, Four Corners Ristorante, Gilligan's Island, La Tienda, Studio 1, Bibimbop's, Mystic Grill, Filling Station, Athena, Cravings, Phobac, Padi's Point and Cucina Victoria.

Meanwhile, after a sumptuous lunch or dinner from June 14-16, dads can have their picture taken as a muscleman for free. Every P1,000 food purchase at any restaurant at Chef's Avenue entitles them to a souvenir photo at a designated picture booth.

On June 16 from 1 to 3 p.m., dads can also watch a movie with the family for free at the Festival Cinema. Every P1,000 food purchase at Chef's Avenue entitles them to two Festival Cinema Gold tickets.

Dads can also get a free cinnamon sugar from Beavertails for every purchase of four cinema tickets at Festival Cinema. The promo is ongoing until June 20.

For more information, call 850-3517 or visit www.festivalsupermall.com.

A fresh look at favorite musicals.
Greenbelt Reprise, a collection of well-loved tunes and acts from the theater, featuring "Buhay sa Tambakan".

Dulaang Talyer's adaptation, penned by National Artist, Rolando Tinio.

Thursday, June 13, 2002, 7PM at the Greenbelt 1 Lobby.

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DRAGONFLY - P13 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	STAR WARS - GP 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40	MURDER BY NUMBERS - R18 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00
MAGKAPATID - GP 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50	PANIC ROOM - R 18 12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45	A WALK TO REMEMBER - GP 11:00, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

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PWES 'ETO NA SI SUPER-B
HATID AY ALIW AT SAYA SA MANILA FILM FIESTA!
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MELANIE MARQUEZ MYLENE DIZON TROY MONTERO
RUFA MAE QUINTO
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PIOLO
Directed by MARYO J. DELOS REYES
GLORIA ROMERO LUIS GONZALES
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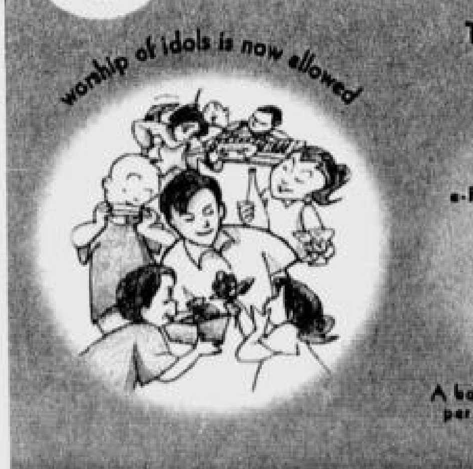
1 I THINK I'M IN LOVE	1 MAGKAPATID	1 I THINK I'M IN LOVE	1 MURDER BY NUMBERS 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	1 A WALK TO REMEMBER
2 MAGKAPATID	2 I THINK I'M IN LOVE	2 A WALK TO REMEMBER	2 A WALK TO REMEMBER 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20	2 MAGKAPATID
3 SUPER B	3 MURDER BY NUMBERS 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30	3 MAGKAPATID	3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20	3 MURDER BY NUMBERS
4 DISKARTE	4 STAR WARS: EPISODE 2	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM June 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29	4 MAGKAPATID 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	4 SUPER B
	5 RESIDENT EVIL		5 PANIC ROOM 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00	5 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
	6 A WALK TO REMEMBER			
	7 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS			

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4" (or any Ayala Cinema) and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com.



The Ayala Malls Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
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worship of idols is now allowed

The Ayala Malls Father's Day Events

Makati
Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards Snick-A-Pick Party
June 16, 4 pm, Glorietta Activity Center

Video Me Daddy, Daddy & Me Picture, e-Postcards, Father's Day Card Making Contest
June 10-16, e-Lounge Glorietta 2

Alabang
Motor Town 2002 Car Show
June 10-19, Activity Center

Live Entertainment by Silk Band
June 15, Activity Center

Cebu
A bottle of RED Wine awaits the 1st 100 shoppers per day on June 15 & 16 upon presentation of a single purchase receipt of P500.

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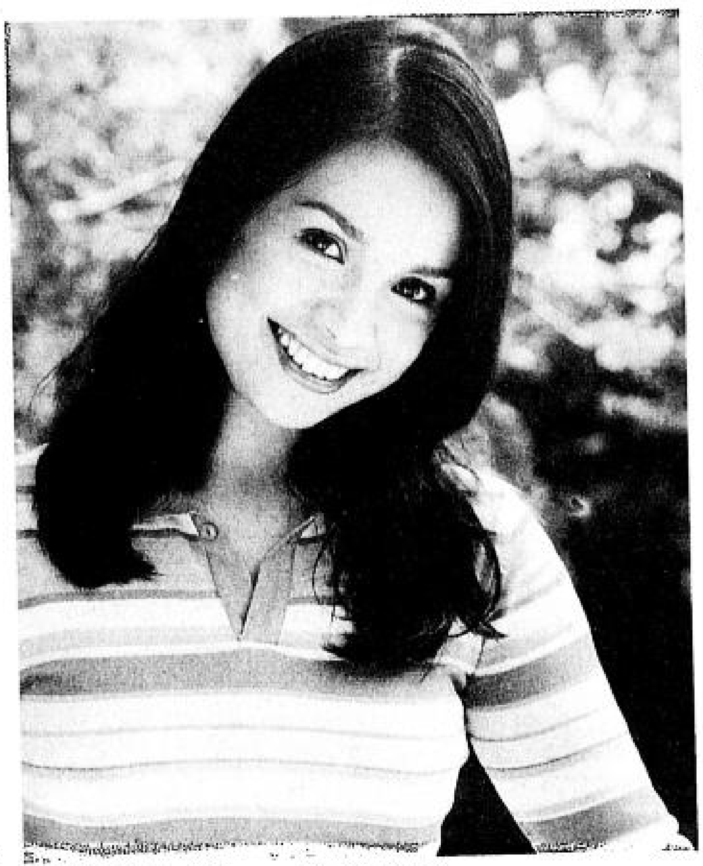
ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**



MOVIE FAN Lea Salonga still star-struck.

'Events are still taking place making my life a really happy one'

By Leah Salterio

LEA SALONGA, international singer-actress who has performed in some of the biggest venues around the world, still gets star-stuck?

Lea admits she's still a fan at heart. She says that two Sundays ago, when she performed at the Tony Awards at the Radio City Music Hall in New York, she had a ball stargazing as top actors and actresses graced the show.

Lea walked down the red carpet escorted by her Los Angeles-based boyfriend Robert Chien. She wore a Nicole Miller corset top, matched with a long skirt and a shawl, three-inch heels and hair "which made me look 5-foot-9."

Lea performed in the show's tribute to Richard Rodgers. She sang "I Love Being a Girl," from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Flower Drum Song." She starred in the revival of the musical in Los Angeles last year and will reprise her role in the Broadway production to start in October.

"All the performers had to rehearse that morning then take a break, but I didn't leave the theater," shared Lea, who's in town for two weeks to hold a repeat of her Broadway concert at the PICC on June 16. "I just sat in the audience with Rob and we watched the others rehearse."

Lea performed on stage with Harry Connick Jr., Michele Lee, John Raitt, Mos Def and Peter Gallagher, Sandra Bullock's costar in "While You Were Sleeping" and "the crush of my mom (Ligaya Salonga)."

"I've done other award shows but I was never rehearsed as much as for the Tony Awards," she said. "Sunday at 9 a.m., I was at Radio City Music Hall rehearsing on stage with my microphone with everybody else. At 2:30 p.m., we were asked to rehearse one more time. By 6:30, we were back to walk down the red carpet."

Impressed

It was the first time for Lea to perform at the Tony Awards. When she won the Tony best actress for "Miss Saigon" in 1991, only her partner, Jonathan Pryce, performed the show-stopping number, "American Dream."

"This time, I sang 'I Enjoy Being a Girl' then did counterpoints of other songs with other performers," Lea said. "I joined the medley and everybody ended with the rendition of 'Oklahama.'

"The most amazing thing in that number for me was John Raitt. For those who don't know who he is, he was the original Billy Bigelow in 'Carousel.' He's also known as Bonnie Raitt's father. He's 85 and he still stands tall and sings well . . . truly an amazing performer. He sang the medley in a higher key, which impressed me. That is not normally possible when you turn 85."

The star-studded Tony Awards lineup included Liam Neeson, Whoopi Goldberg, Frank Langella, Jennifer Jason Leigh, Laura Linney, "Sex and the City" actress Cynthia Nixon, Paul Rudd and John Lithgow.

Also there was Alicia Silverstone, the Hollywood actress who is also the image model of Kamiseta, the rival clothing brand of Bayo, which Lea is endorsing.

"But I don't think she knows that I endorse a rival brand," said Lea nonchalantly.

Preparation

The day after her Tony appearance, Lea took the first available flight to Manila so she can prepare for her one-night PICC show, which will coincide with the launch of the live album, released by BMG Records Pilipinas.

Lea chose the repertoire of the show with stage director Bobby Garcia, and with her younger brother Gerard, who is the show's musical director.

"All the songs we chose are songs we've wanted to do as a group," she said. "We're very happy with how the concert came out.

"I trust Gerard's taste and he knows what my tastes are. That goes with every artist he works with. He works according to their artistic and personal preferences. He does not impose his own style. He respects what the artist wants."

After the show, Lea will have a four-day vacation before she returns to LA, where she has been temporarily based since August 2001.

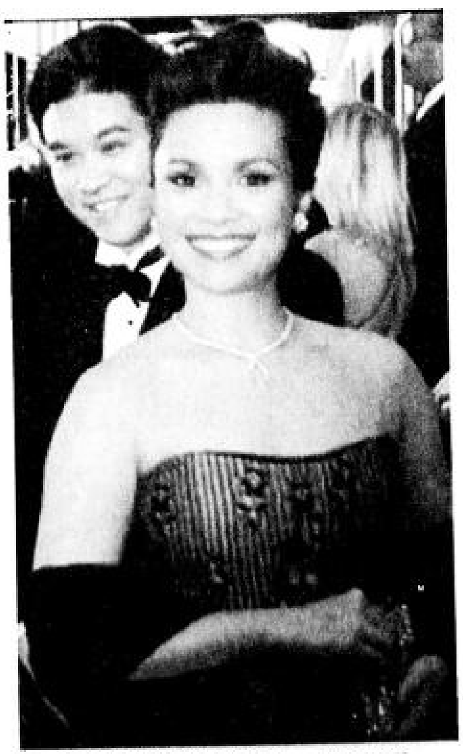
"Everybody will be shut out," she said with a smile. "I don't even want to think about singing."

Then it will be a filled-up calendar for her starting August, when she begins rehearsals for the Broadway production of "Flower Drum Song." The musical was last staged in Broadway in 1958.

Second chance

"There will be changes from the LA production," she said. "David Henry Hwang is still revising the script and I'm sure, throughout the run, he will keep on revising it. I haven't seen the script for Broadway yet. But the

EVENTS/ A23



"FLOWER DRUM" GIRL. Lea in an off-shoulder Nicole Miller at the Tony Awards in New York. AP PHOTO

PAGCOR in Action

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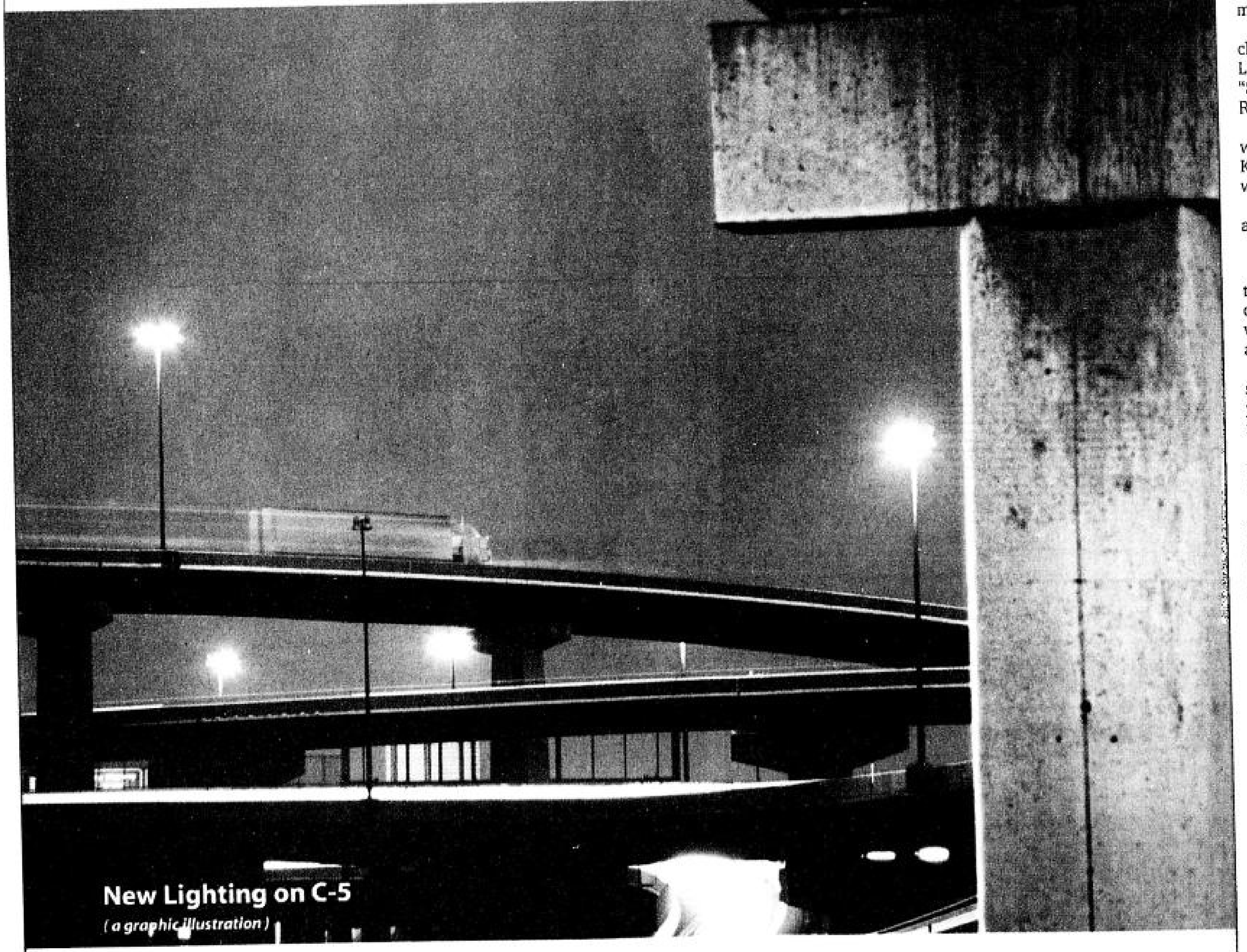
Sa Gabing Madilim**



New Lighting on C-5
(a graphic illustration)

Liwanag at katahimikan sa inyong buhay mula sa pamahalaan ni Presidente Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sa tulong ng PAGCOR

Who lights up your life? PAGCOR, under the Office of President Gloria Macapagal– Arroyo, has been implementing various lighting projects along major thoroughfares throughout Metro Manila and the provinces aimed at improving law enforcement and vehicular safety.

Motorists used to avoid the dimly-lit C-5 because of vehicular mishaps, holdups and stone-throwing incidents. PAGCOR has installed new lights and replaced broken lamp posts... so now people are beginning to see C-5 in a whole new light.

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BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◉ *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

Metrobank, Merrill Lynch seen aiding MVP's PLDT bid

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WALL Street mergers-and-acquisition specialist Merrill Lynch and the Philippines' No. 1 financial services group Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. will provide the financial ammunition in the counter-attack being hammered out by Manuel V. Pangilinan to shoot down the $925-million offer by taipan John Gokongwei for the First Pacific group's stake in PLDT and Bonifacio Land Corp.

An INQUIRER source said the two financial powerhouses were close to finalizing the terms of their participation in a management-aided counter-offer that was likely to be made should Gokongwei hurdle the legal defenses set up by Pangilinan and PLDT chair Antonio "Tony Boy" Cojuangco and PLDT.

The source said Merrill Lynch has reportedly committed to provide strategic financing to Pangilinan's cause. The source said Metrobank, owned and controlled by the low-profile taipan George Ty, was mainly interested in the Fort Bonifacio property, which could serve as the crown jewel of its real estate arm, Federal Land.

Pangilinan has been moving to tap deep-pocketed allies to beat Gokongwei whose all-or-nothing offer has made it difficult to match his bid because of the sizable amount needed to buy either PLDT or BLC.

A senior PLDT official neither confirmed nor denied Metrobank and Merrill Lynch's role in the counter-offer as he merely reiterated that management remained open to all options.

Pangilinan yesterday issued a personal note to PLDT employees thanking them for their support to the board and management in Tuesday's stockholders' meeting.

In an apparent dig against First Pacific, Pangilinan said the employees' support was a "clear sign to those who take our success for granted that it is the people of PLDT who have made that success possible."

Pangilinan urged PLDT employees to stay focused and not be affected in the coming weeks by news on the company some of which might be critical. He also assured them that he would continue to work in the best interest of PLDT, its shareholders and employees.

But as Pangilinan prepares his counter-offensive against Gokongwei, the PLDT official, who requested anonymity, said the taipan must first address the issues raised against his entry into PLDT, specifically conflict of interest, monopoly concerns, and his company's serious debt problems.

The official said PLDT's by-laws bar any competitor from sitting on the board of PLDT. Gokongwei owns Digitel, the country's second largest fixed-line operator after PLDT.

The official said the board adopted this conflict-of-interest provision only in 2000 or two years after First Pacific bought into PLDT.

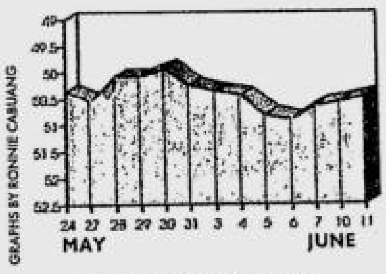
METROBANK/ B3

DOF to target corporate tax evaders

Page B10

INDICATORS

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.445 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 11, 2002

¥ 124.54 = $1

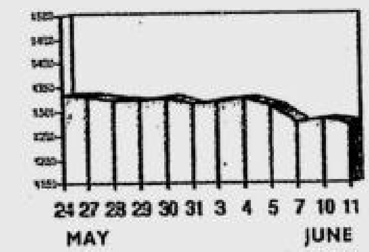
As of 5 p.m., June 11, 2002

GOLD: $318.70/319.20

per ounce Hong Kong, June 11, 2002

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

I AM pleased to report that, as citizens of this independent republic, you have your basic rights. As of today, even after the Independence Day celebration, you still have them, I suppose . . . well, most probably.

You have the right to remain silent, for instance, especially when it's your wife who is doing all the talking.

But whether or not you can enjoy such basic rights of citizens, I also found out, unfortunately, many greatly depend on your choice of electric power distributor.

If you happen to live outside the Meralco franchise area, which is the whole of Metro Manila, plus its big surroundings, except the sea, and a portion of my bathroom, you don't have the same basic rights as customers of Meralco.

* * *

THAT at least is the impression I get, well, from the "class suit" filed by several unknown multisectoral groups, led by former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile as their lawyer.

Manong Johnny said the word "class" in the "class suit" has nothing to do with our perennial lack of teachers and classrooms, although the new school year just started.

I guess the word "suit" also does not have anything to do with men's clothing, such as the business suit or the dinner jacket or what we know as *americana*, which can also mean, by the way, a blonde—but not the fake ones in karaoke bars.

* * *

NO, pardon me, Manong Johnny did not say those things. I must be confusing his statements with all those Independence Day speeches. Of course I fell asleep instantly.

What Manong Johnny said was, anyway, the "class suit" has nothing to do with mere electricity rates anymore. It is now a matter of basic rights.

Napocor and Meralco, to his lawyer's mind, are confiscating property of the citizens of this independent republic—through the PPA. It is, therefore, a clear violation of their basic rights. Well, excluding that one on remaining silent when the wife is mad.

* * *

BUT what about those who are not Meralco customers? Don't they have the same rights, even if the people in Cebu insist on having a different national language?

To avoid any misimpression of inequality in the "class suit," Manong Johnny now intends to file similar cases throughout the country.

He and his group will try to stop the collection of the PPA by all electric power distributors, including the cooperatives, in places like Takurong and Pagudpod.

Now that plan, if it pushes through, is a first-class, bigtime job even for a large multisectoral group. For the paper alone, they may even need to use an entire forest.

* * *

DON'T get me wrong. I support the effort of Manong Johnny. I will even sign up for the class suit. His group is trying to gather 1 million signatures to join the case.

I am only saying, well, what if the different courts all over the country arrive at different decisions? For when you talk of thousands of cases, you can't be sure how the judges will be paid, este, no, how they will be fed the wrong information.

In all of this, nevertheless, we must see the point. And that is, this PPA thing, this strife as many in the business community had been meaning to say, is really a matter of national security.

Precisely, it can become a "class suit" of the entire population. This is precisely what Manong Johnny called the political side of the case. You know—the pressure point!

* * *

THIS is becoming a hot burning smoldering issue. It can bring down the republic. It can bring us all down. It is said the split in the Senate is a direct result of the PPA.

For why do you think Sen. John Osmeña bolted the ruling coalition? He didn't like the way his allies (make that "former" allies) were treating the PPA issue.

Particularly, he wanted very much to hear the explanation of Kuya Eddie, during whose watch all those IPP contracts were made. In the Senate hearings! Not in media!

But of course the comedy in the House of Representatives is another story. It was only a slight malfunction, although it was the mental kind.

* * *

ANYWAY, you can be sure that the "class suit" will be spiced up by public protests left

BREAKTIME/ B3

Court restrains Itogon exemption

By Elena R. Torrijos

PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange director Robert Coyiuto scored an initial victory over rival PSE chair Vivian Yuchengco and former Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin after the Court of Appeals earlier this week issued a temporary restraining order against the exemption of the private placement between Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc. of the Ortigas family and Ongpin's Philweb.com from the stock exchange's rule on additional listing of shares.

Coyiuto and Yuchengco, who were bitter rivals for the chairmanship of the PSE in a controversial election last March, have long been at odds over the exemption of the private placement from the PSE's additional listing rule.

The PSE listing committee then headed by Coyiuto and the PSE board, when it was still chaired by broker Felipe Yap last year, disallowed the listing of additional shares of ISMI, which sold a 40-percent stake to Ongpin's technology holding firm Philweb.com. The board and listing committee cited the additional listing rule that requires all shareholders of a listed firm be given the right to subscribe to its shares if the discount price offered to investors was beyond 10 percent from the average market price.

The rule was intended to protect the rights of minority shareholders from unfair dilution.

Yuchengco, however, favored the approval of the listing of additional ISMI shares and subsequently, the SEC issued a directive overruling the previous PSE board's decision.

The regulator told the PSE board to allow the listing, arguing that the bourse had "exceeded its discretion" by refusing to grant cash-strapped ISMI exemption from a requirement to undertake a stock rights offering prior to the sale of shares to a new investor, in that case, Philweb.com.

Thereafter, Coyiuto filed a petition for a TRO and preliminary injunction and asked the court to nullify the exemption.

In the CA eighth division's resolution, signed by Associate Justices Ruben Reyes, Renato Dacudao and Amelita Tolentino, gave respondents Yuchengco, ISMI and the PSE 10 days from receipt of the resolution to comment on the TRO while Coyiuto would have five days from the comment to submit his reply.

The court likewise asked respondents to show cause within the same 10-day period why the application for preliminary injunction should not be granted.

In a press statement welcoming the CA's resolution, Coyiuto said: "My petition seeking a definite ruling from the court on the issue is in pursuit of our fight and belief to preserve the rights of the PSE as an independent and self-regulating organization and to give integrity to the rules of the PSE, in this instance a rule which would protect the interest of the minority stockholders of a publicly listed corporation."

Philtread hikes capital; backdoor listing set

THE BOARD of publicly listed Philtread Holdings Corp. has approved the increase in the company's authorized capital stock to effectively pave the way for the purchase and backdoor listing of ATR-Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc., the largest non-bank investment house in the country.

In a statement, Philtread said its board has approved the increase in the company's authorized capital stock from P300 million to P1.3 billion through a stock rights offering involving 1.1 billion common shares at a par value of P1 each and the issuance of 200,000 preferred shares at a par value of P1,000 each.

The stock rights offering entitles all Philtread shareholders to subscribe to a ratio of five new shares at P2 each for every share they own.

Philtread will also issue 100 million warrants so that shareholders who subscribe to the new shares will be given a warrant to purchase an additional share at P2 over the next two years.

In line with the increase in capital, Philtread will also undertake a preemptive rights offering to raise money to purchase the entire outstanding capital stock of ATR-Kim Eng Capital at book value.

Apart from its traditional investment banking business, ATR-Kim Eng Capital also has a major stake in TPG Corp., a leading pre-need company that sells educational and pension plans under the Professional Group Plans brand, and in ATR Professional Life Assurance, a life insurance company formerly known as GE Life.

The investment house is now in the closing stages of acquiring All Asia Life Assurance Corp., which would double the size of its life insurance business.

ATR-Kim Eng Capital is also the local joint venture partner in Prebon Philippines Inc., an interbank foreign exchange and money broker that accounts for a substantial share of the volume on the Philippine Dealing System of the Bankers Association of the Phils.

As of end-March this year, ATR-Kim Eng Capital's paid-in capital and shareholders' equity stood at P767 million and P1.1 billion, respectively.

To allow ATR-Kim Eng's current shareholders to increase their stake in Philtread, ATR Holdings and Kim Eng Holdings will participate in the listed firm's rights offering.

Consequently, the shareholders' combined ownership and control in Philtread will reach at least 70 percent.

The board of Philtread also approved the change of name of Philtread to ATR-Kim Eng Financial Corp.

ATR Holdings is an investment holding company owned by Consolidated Robina Capital Corp., A. Soriano Corp., Drysdale Investment Corp., TLC Beatrice, investment bankers Ramon Arnaiz, Manuel Tordesillas, Lorenzo Roxas and other members of the company's senior management. Kim Eng Holdings is a leading regional stock brokerage listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange.

Philtread chair Manuel Tordesillas said: "The simultaneous rights offering and purchase of ATR-Kim Eng represents the second phase of Philtread's transformation into a diversified and financial services company. In 2001, Philtread undertook a similar rights offering to acquire a 10-percent stake in LB Global Corp., the Philippines' leading money remittance and courier services company."

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CLEARANCE
on
Home and Office

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In cooperation with:
Official Radio Station: Home Radio 97.9 FM
The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sponsor: Citibank

DISCLOSURES

PHILIPPINE Seven Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from June 21 to July 26.

* * *

MACROASIA Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 19, 2 p.m. at the Kachina Room of Century Park Sheraton Hotel. Stockholders as of July 19 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ALASKA Milk Corp. shall offer its key employees and personnel the option to subscribe to its common shares at a price not less than 90 percent of the fair market value.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Corro-Coat Inc.** were Corazon Buenconsejo, Jose Fernando Camus, John Lao, Renato Paras, Arthur Ponsaran and Sonia Salvador. The company also declared a 20-percent stock dividend in favor of stockholders as of July 1.

* * *

F & J Prince Holdings Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 27, 3 p.m. at the 34/F, Function Room 6, Top of the City, Citibank Tower, Makati City.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Racing Club Inc. declared a 17-percent stock dividend in favor of stockholders as of Aug. 5.

* * *

IONICS EMS Inc. increased its number of directors from seven to nine.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Empire East Land Holdings Inc.** were Andrew Tan, Gerardo Garcia, George Yang, Anthony Charlemagne Yu, Cirilo Maniangit, Enrique Santos Sy and Reynaldo Guevara.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, June 11, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	5	5	26,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	20	20	20	20	1,643,600
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort.	90	100	90	100	5,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	56	56	55	55	83,800
China Banking Corp.	635	635	635	635	200
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	37	37.5	37	37	120,800
First E-Bank Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	96,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36.5	37.5	36.5	36.5	81,500
Philippine National Bank	37.5	37.5	36.5	37.5	46,900
Union Bank of the Phil.	23.25	23.25	23	23	8,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1140	1140	1140	1140	1,320
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	27	27	27	27	15,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	2,650,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	650	650	650	650	140
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	1,000,000
Piltel	0.38	0.38	0.35	0.38	1,830,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	422.5	430	420	422.5	82,860
Ivantage Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	110,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	71,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. B	34.5	35	34	34.5	296,100
Petron Corp.	1.72	1.74	1.7	1.72	1,606,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.52	1.52	40,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	46,240,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	49,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.5	2.4	2.42	2,054,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	32,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	50,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.74	1.8	1.72	1.8	109,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	30,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	50,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25	60,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	33.5	34	33.5	34	70,000
RFM Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.12	1.12	2,166,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48.5	47.5	48.5	156,200
San Miguel Corp. B	56.5	57.5	56.5	57	149,800
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	60,000
Ayala Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	832,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.34	2.34	2.32	2.32	352,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	100,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	5,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	1,100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23	23.25	23	23.25	12,500
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	8,253,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,800,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.77	0.78	300,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.48	0.5	0.48	0.5	110,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.32	0.34	6,610,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.5	9.5	42,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	460,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	50,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.6	4.6	4.1	4.6	34,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	775	775	775	775	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.2	6.3	5.9	5.9	31,398,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2.02	2	2.02	200,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.27	2,170,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.55	2.6	2.5	2.55	5,035,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	3,000
City & Land Developers	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	10,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	500,000
SM Development Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	50,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	4,291,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	200,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	382,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.039	0.04	0.039	0.04	2,500,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.205	1,970,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	630,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	130,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	7,500,000
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	111,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,125,720	49,384,755.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	155,803,700	147,591,960.00
PRO	44,367,000	227,219,010.00
Mining	5,612,000	1,184,890.00
OIL	123,520,000	485,700.00
GRAND TOTALS:	331,428,420	425,866,315.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	520.65	DOWN 3.66
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,764.91	DOWN 13.64
PRO	534.30	DOWN 4.13
Mining	1,319.84	DOWN 46.77
OIL	1.23	DOWN 0.06
All Shares Index	747.43	DOWN 3.05
Composite	1,274.36	DOWN 10.44

NO. OF ADVANCES: 13; NO. OF DECLINES: 26; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 41; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 80; NO. OF TRADES: 1,746

CURRENCIES

June 11, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.058537	1.000000	50.6180
Japan	Yen	0.008492	0.008022	0.4061
United Kingdom	Pound	1.546417	1.460900	73.9478
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.135718	0.128213	6.4899
Switzerland	Franc	0.679028	0.641478	32.4703
Canada	Dollar	0.687630	0.649604	32.8817
Singapore	Dollar	0.591296	0.558597	28.2751
Australia	Dollar	0.602811	0.569476	28.8257
Bahrain	Dinar	2.807940	2.652661	134.2724
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.282277	0.266667	13.4982
Brunei	Dollar	0.589649	0.557041	28.1963
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000122	0.000115	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.024984	0.023602	1.1947
UAE	Dirham	0.288210	0.272272	13.7819
Korea	Won	0.000871	0.000823	0.0417
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.944700	47.8188
Argentina	Peso	0.298179	0.281690	14.2586
Brazil	Real	0.401570	0.379363	19.2026
Denmark	Kroner	0.134478	0.127041	6.4306
India	Rupee	0.021639	0.020442	1.0347
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.278592	0.263186	13.3219
Mexico	New Peso	0.109212	0.103173	5.2224
New Zealand	Dollar	0.516259	0.487710	24.6869
Norway	Kroner	0.134425	0.126991	6.4280
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017643	0.016667	0.8437
South Africa	Rand	0.106428	0.100543	5.0893
Sweden	Kroner	0.108966	0.102940	5.2106
Syria	Pound	0.024223	0.022883	1.1583
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031170	0.029446	1.4905
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000917	0.000866	0.0438

BTr raising volume of T-bills for auction by ₱500M in Q3

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Treasury said it would increase starting July the volume of treasury bills for auction by P500 million to P9.5 billion.

The additional volume will be added to the one-year treasury bills, which at present amount to P2.5 billion. The size of the 91-day and 182-day debt notes will remain at P3.5 billion and P3 billion, respectively, every auction.

Sources said the move would bring up BTr's borrowings from the market to about P39 billion in the third quarter from about P36 billion in the previous quarter.

The programmed borrowings from the market in the third quarter, however, will be much lower than the government's maturing obligations during the period, said a trader.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government would consider replacing some of its local borrowings with foreign funds, which could be secured at lower rates, if the market would continue pushing local rates up.

Last week, the government raised $300-million from the seven-year global bond market. The amount will be used to replace some of its programmed local borrowings.

Edeza said the Treasury would also cap the volume of the upcoming retail treasury bonds to only about P12 billion.

The government had been rejecting high bids for both the treasury bills, in its twice-a-month auction, and treasury bonds.

It had rejected all offers in a P4-billion auction of three-year bonds when the market attempted to drive rates up "unreasonably."

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho noted that the increase in local interest rates was "generally unwarranted."

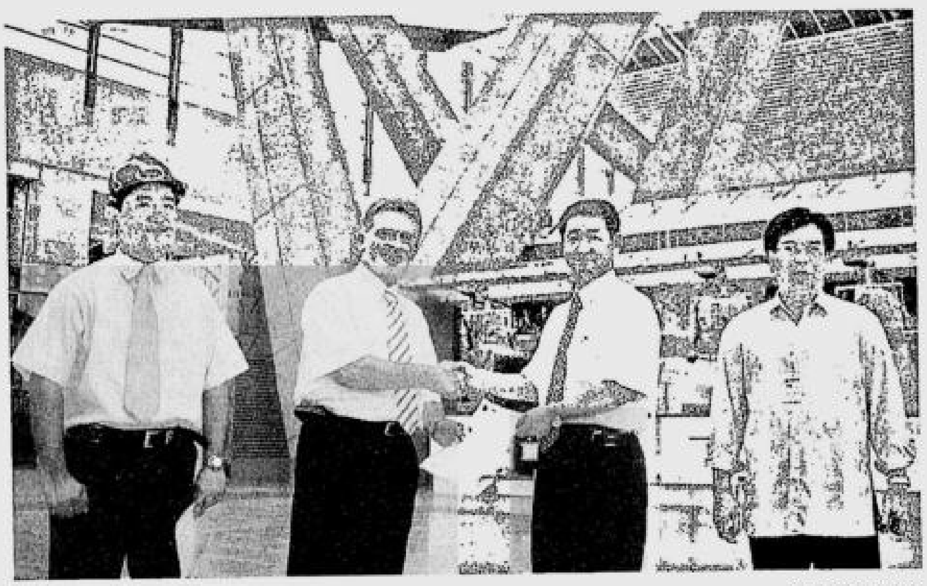
He pointed out that banks still have excess liquidity so there was no reason for them to jack up the rates.

"We will be opportunistic and go to foreign markets if we can get cheaper deals there," he said.

Edeza also said the government was not inclined to issue any 10-year bonds this year.

"We are not inclined to over borrow more (than what was programmed) from the local market. We may even cancel some issues," said Edeza.

The fixed-income market has been speculating that the government might increase its borrowings from the local market to finance a growing budget deficit that stood at nearly P83 billion as of April. The April figures represent 64 percent of the P130-billion target for the whole year. This is why banks are trying to get better prices for the money they will lend to the government.



ROGER MARGALLO

NAIA-3 NEARS COMPLETION

Karl May, Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. project manager, receives from Toshio Hori, general manager of Takenaka Philippines, a certificate of electrical inspection for the 1.1-kilometer Naia terminal building as architect Benito Tan and Piatco spokesperson Moises Tolentino look on.

Metrobank . . .

From page B1

Gokongwei's camp had previously claimed that the conflict-of-interest provision was not cited when First Pacific, which owns mobile phone operator Smart, took control of PLDT in 1999.

The official raised anew the specter of a monopoly in the telecommunications industry since Gokongwei would control the No. 1 and 2 fixed line operators in the country and three mobile phone providers—Smart, Piltel and Digitel's anticipated cellular phone subsidiary.

The PLDT official claimed that Gokongwei's takeover could push PLDT deeper into debt considering that Digitel was already burdened with P25 billion in liabilities.

Meantime, Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT) said in Tokyo yesterday it has not decided its stance on a takeover battle for the Philippines' largest telecoms carrier.

"We are closely watching developments but the situation has not reached a point where we have to decide (our stance)," Junichiro Miyazu, president of NTT, Japan's largest telecoms carrier, told a regular news conference.

NTT Communications Corp., an NTT long-distance unit, owns a 15-percent stake in PLDT, and is considered one of the key players in the takeover battle. *With a report from Reuters*

Breaktime . . .

From page B2

and right, front and back, against the PPA, and most probably against Meralco.

For inherent in the "class suit" is the question on how the Lopez group got back its interest in Meralco.

Well, it's simply by default. The Meralco Foundation, which the Marcoses used to get control of Meralco from the Lopez group, could not pay anymore for the Meralco shares which were transferred to it by . . . well, who else, the Marcoses.

So the foundation has to give back the Meralco shares to the group. On which the Supreme Court even ruled in favor of the Lopez group.

* * *

STILL, I don't think the issue will die down just like that. This is not a fad. People take the PPA seriously, because it hurts them.

In the business community, they also look at the PPA as a strangler. It is choking the economy with high electricity rates.

In other countries, they simply walked away from IPP contracts. They are such "favorite" investment areas as Thailand and India.

Even in California, would you believe, they walked away from several IPP contracts. Sorry, but rich as we are, we can't afford to pay you anymore. Something like that.

* * *

IN business, they are certain that some IPP contracts were overpriced intentionally as a formula. From the start, the IPPs expected the government to walk away from the contracts someday.

So they try to factor that in, when they talked of ROI and RORB and ROTC. Look, one IPP bought its business for P2 billion. Last year, it made P8 billion. That's four times its capital already.

What some in business are saying is, maybe some of the IPPs are already paid for many times over. Maybe now it's time they return the favor. After all, it is now a matter of national security. Meaning, uh-oh, here comes trouble!

PAPALINO'S

Breakfast	**110**
Lunch/Dinner	**288**

G/F El Pueblo, ADB Ave. Cor. Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas, Pasig City.

Tel.: 632-7117, 632-7605

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on June 25, 2002 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the Meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2001 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 29, 2001
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2001
5. Approval of the 2001 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Reduction of the Par Value of the Corporation's Common Shares from Sixty Pesos (P60.00) to Forty Pesos (P40.00), Resulting in the Decrease of the Authorized Capital Stock from P50,000,000,040.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares to P33,333,333,360.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares and the Amendment for this Purpose of Article Seventh of the Amended Articles of Incorporation
7. Approval of the Increase in the Authorized Capital Stock from P33,333,333,360.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares to P50,000,000,040.00 Divided into 1,054,824,557 Common Shares and 195,175,444 Preferred Shares with a Par Value of P40.00 Per Share
8. Issuance of 195,175,444 Preferred Shares to PDIC as Partial Payment for P7,807M Worth of Previously Contracted Loans
9. Ratification of All Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2001 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
10. Election of Directors
11. Appointment of External Auditor
12. Other Matters
13. Adjournment

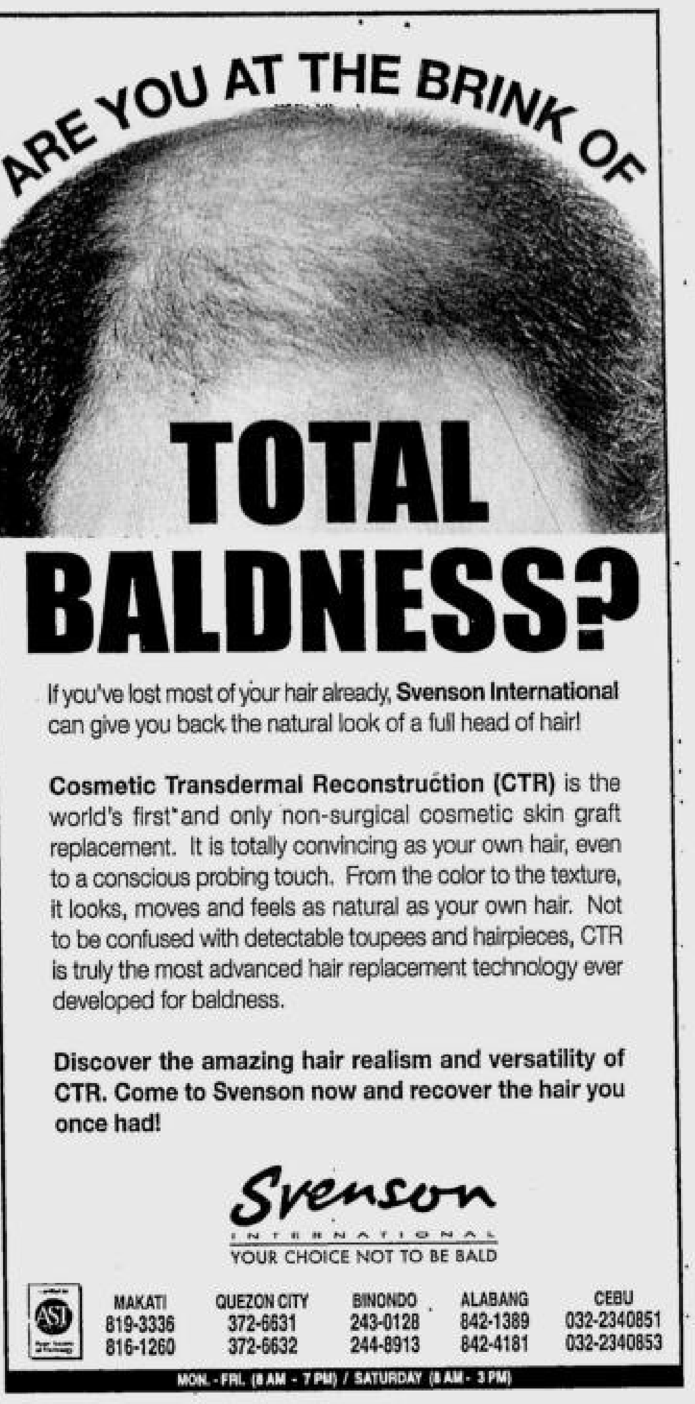
Minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors starting from June 26, 2001 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary. In addition, copies of the minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' Meeting will also be made available at the meeting venue for stockholders who wish to examine the minutes but who were unable to do so prior to the meeting.

Only stockholders of record as of May 31, 2002 will be entitled to vote at this meeting. For this purpose, the Stock and Transfer Books of the Corporation will be closed from June 17 to June 24, 2002.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a **PROXY** instrument to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. of June 20, 2002. A proxy instrument shall conform with the requirements of Sec. 58 of the Corporate Code, and shall be affixed with a duly paid documentary stamp tax in accordance with Sec. 192 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997.

Pasay City, May 17, 2002

MA. CECILIA L. PESAYCO
Corporate Secretary


ARE YOU AT THE BRINK OF
TOTAL
BALDNESS?

If you've lost most of your hair already, **Svenson International** can give you back the natural look of a full head of hair!

Cosmetic Transdermal Reconstruction (CTR) is the world's first and only non-surgical cosmetic skin graft replacement. It is totally convincing as your own hair, even to a conscious probing touch. From the color to the texture, it looks, moves and feels as natural as your own hair. Not to be confused with detectable toupees and hairpieces, CTR is truly the most advanced hair replacement technology ever developed for baldness.

Discover the amazing hair realism and versatility of CTR. Come to Svenson now and recover the hair you once had!

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MON. - FRI. (8 AM - 7 PM) / SATURDAY (8 AM - 3 PM)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
OF STOCKHOLDERS OF
KEPPEL PHILIPPINES HOLDINGS, INC.

TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS:

Please take notice that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of ***Keppel Philippines Holdings, Inc.***, shall be held on **20 June 2002 at 2:00 p.m.** at the Makati AB Room, Makati Shangri-La, Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Notice of Meeting and Certification of Quorum
3. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting of 15 June 2001
4. Presentation and Approval of the 2001 Annual Report/ Audited Financial Statements
5. Ratification of the Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors, Officers and Management of the Corporation during the year under review
6. Election of Directors
7. Directors Remuneration
8. Appointment of External Auditor
9. Such other matters as may properly come up before meeting
10. Adjournment

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on **16 May 2002** as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to vote at the meeting.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on **16 May 2002** are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, this meeting. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please bring your Identification Card and present the same at the registration desk at the entrance lobby of the Makati AB Room, Makati Shangri-la, Ayala Avenue cor Makati Avenue, Makati City. Registration shall start at 1:30 p.m.

MA. MELVA E. VALDEZ
Corporate Secretary

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING
OF STOCKHOLDERS OF
KEPPEL PHILIPPINES MARINE, INC.

TO OUR STOCKHOLDERS:

Please take notice that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of ***Keppel Philippines Marine, Inc.***, shall be held on **20 June 2002 at 3:00 p.m.** at the Makati AB Room, Makati Shangri-La, Ayala Avenue corner Makati Avenue, Makati City.

The agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Notice of Meeting and Certification of Quorum
3. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting of 15 June 2001
4. Presentation and Approval of the 2001 Annual Report/ Audited Financial Statements
5. Ratification of the Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors, Officers and Management of the Corporation during the year under review
6. Election of Directors
7. Directors Remuneration
8. Appointment of External Auditor
9. Such other matters as may properly come up before meeting
10. Adjournment

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MA. MELVA E. VALDEZ
Corporate Secretary

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Female, not more than 35 years old, single, graduate of Office Administration/ Secretarial course or any business course, with at least 3 years experience in the same capacity. Must be mature, organized, dynamic and result-oriented. Computer literate with above-average communication skills.

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NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

Be informed that the deadline for Invitation to Prequalify and to Bid for the lease, construction, management and operation of Passenger Terminal Facility at Port Calapan, Oriental Mindoro as published in the May 15 and 22, 2002 issues of the Philippine Star, and the May 29, 2002 issue of the Philippine Daily Inquirer has been extended to June 21, 2002. The Pre-bid Conference scheduled on June 14, 2002 is also re-scheduled to June 28, 2002.

Interested parties may still secure bid documents upon presentation of Letter of Intent and payment of non-refundable amount of P5,000.00 exclusive of VAT, at the Port District of Southern Luzon, #164 13th Street, Port Area, Manila.

(Sgd.) **HECTOR E. MIOLE**
Port District Manager

(PDI--June 13, 2002)

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late ANDREA C. BELTRAN was extrajudicially settled to her only heir ESTRELLA C. BELTRAN -LASAM as per doc# 275 page #56 book# 694 series of 2002 before notary public Jose S. Padolina of Q. C. PDI 6 /6,13,20 2002

The heirs of Nella D. Paglinawan, deceased executed an extrajudicial settlement entered as Doc. No. 184, Page No. 37, Book 66 Series 2002 Notarial Register Atty. Jose L. Sta. Ana.
PDI-June 6, 13 & 20, 2002

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is given on the loss of a Baguio Country Club Stock Certificate No. 1080 of PEDRO MERCADO JOVEN. If no contest is received a new certificate will be issued.
(PDI-May 30, June 6 & 13 2002)

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PRU CHALLENGE 2002

Bangkok on my mind!

Pru Life U.K. salutes the qualifiers to the Pru Challenge 2002 mid -year convention

Top 3 Producers

Stephanie Flores
Blue Pearl (Bangkok qualifier)

Marilou Huang Peir Pyng
China Jade (Bangkok qualifier)

Marichel Lim
Gold (Bangkok qualifier)

Producer Level

Mariden Fondevilla
Borromeo & Asc. (Bangkok qualifier)

Gwendolyn Pardo
Blue Pearl (Bangkok qualifier)

Pedro Lim
China Jade (Bangkok qualifier)

Ma. Lourdes Yap
Blue Pearl (Bangkok qualifier)

Jacqueline Lao
Amethyst (Bangkok qualifier)

Dolly Jane Bok
Blue Pearl (Bangkok qualifier)

Cristina Go
China Jade (Bangkok qualifier)

Henson Tan
China Jade (Bangkok qualifier)

Nellie Yeo King
China Jade (Bangkok qualifier)

Hermogenes Tomas Jr.
Alambay & Asc.

Salvacion Mojares
Blue Pearl

Sonia Tancinco
Blue Pearl

Anthonette Mahinay
Blue Pearl

Maria Cherrie Tan
Blue Pearl

Thelma Aguila
Crystal

Nelva Monterroyo
Smithsonite

Emmanuel Amiths
Moonstone

BM Level

Henry Gocuan
Blue Pearl (Bangkok qualifier)

Hue Hun Koa
China Jade (Bangkok qualifier)

George Buncayo
Jasper

Cheryl Lynn Martinez
Diamond

Myrna Galban
Ruby

Albert Yung
Chrysolite

SDM Level

Mark Fueconcillo
North Luzon (Bangkok qualifier)

ABM Level

Melanie Briones
Diamond

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UM Level

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Blue Pearl (Bangkok qualifier)

Jaime Barba
Blue Pearl (Bangkok qualifier)

Edwin Gocuan
Blue Pearl (Bangkok qualifier)

Maria Fe Asprer
Blue Pearl

Henson Tan
China Jade

Raul Roldan
Gold

Connie Bayaborda
Jasper

Nenette Reyes
Ruby

Congratulations! MDRT Qualifiers

Severiano Co
Blue Pearl

Katherine Yap
Blue Pearl

Maria Isabel Cokai
China Jade

Edwin Gocuan
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Ariel Rosales
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Ma. Lourdes Yap
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Marie Dakay
Blue Pearl

Albert Yung
Chrysolite

Maria Cherrie Tan
Blue Pearl

Pedro Lim
China Jade

Artemio Wopanio
Blue Pearl

Jose Jeff Damayo
Blue Pearl

Henson Tan
China Jade

Producer Level
450K and up

NAMES	*BRANCH*
Teresita Sudario	Lagunzad
Gilbert Chua	Blue Pearl
Enrico Tonson	Granite
Danilo Abinales	Blue Pearl
Kenneth Santos	Peridot
Leonida Escosia	Moredo & Asc
Juanita Ong	Blue Pearl
Jocelyn Lao	Amethyst
Madora Avinante	MM1
Rosinni Llamado	Red Onyx
Evelyn Tayaban	Ruby
Monserrat Surla	Jasper
Marilyn Suello	Coloma & Asc
Cristina Suarez	Blue Pearl
Venancio Portugal	Coral
Mariluz Pascasio	Clemente & Asc
Rita Lao	China Jade
Gloria Fernandez	Red Onyx
Anna Liza Valarao	Chrysolite
Leonida Botor	Blue Sapphire
Rea Lactao	Diamond
Peter Bollant	Borromeo & Asc
Melchor Uy	China Jade
Mario Muyco	Peridot
John Yap	Blue Pearl
Lolita Tan Eng Sy	Blue Pearl
Arlene Jumangit	Blue Pearl
Cornelio Pahang	Blue Pearl
Debbie Borromeo	Blue Pearl
Conchita Tan	Amethyst
Fredricka Callueng	Jasper
Thelma Rojas	Blue Pearl
Alsa Villacorta	Diamond
Paul Borromeo	Borromeo & Asc
Jovenia Delicana	Blue Pearl
Erlinda Del Rosario	Chrysolite

Producer Level
300K to 450K

NAMES	*BRANCH*
Teresa Gallego	Blue Pearl
Renato Abinales	Blue Pearl
Estrellita Cabo	Blue Pearl
Conchita Yu	Blue Pearl
Rebecca Camarista	Red Onyx
Arlene Ros	Blue Pearl
Madeline Akot	Jasper
Yolanda Urani	Cruz & Asc
Belen Aritao	Ruby
Jose Jeff Damayo	Blue Pearl
Winefreda Natividad	Lagunzad
Marigel Almocera	Blue Pearl
Carlito Tiu	China Jade
Merle Minas	Ruby
Antonio Francisco	Ruby
Violeta Ante	Ruby
Caridad Pereyras	Palma & Asc
Eduard Alfonso	Amethyst
Gloria Garcea-Apiag	Blue Pearl
Ricardo Soler	Tektite
Jeffrey Tan	Blue Pearl
Mario Carmelo Lopez	Jet Stars
Mary Ann Latonio	Blue Pearl
Carmen Aypa	Ruby
Allyson Mallen	Lapis Lazuli
Nanette Gomez	Aventurine
Mylene Ortega	Diamond
James Nicolas	Jasper

Congratulations!

Once again, you have successfully crossed over the first half of the year with flying colors. While working under the most trying conditions, your performance is a testimonial to the saying, "hard work is the yeast that raises the dough". Your accomplishment is an indicator of what makes you a cut above the rest.

Like a steady stream, your numbers keep on growing year after year. And as Pru Life UK gears for the next level, I am very glad that we have you with us. We are progressing at rates that only people of your class and competence are destined to keep pace with.

While I applaud your fine performance, I also challenge you to keep on fighting. Together with the 19 Men and Women of the Pru who made it to the Million Dollar Round Table , I urge you to continue setting a good example to your colleagues. Keep the faith that served as the beacon to those new to the profession — the ones you inspired to choose this path. Let your light continue to shine.

We are approaching the summit. And it will only be a matter of time till we get there. Stand firm and steadfast for soon, the sweet taste of victory will be on our lips.

Once again, my heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to all of you!

Bobby G. Madrid
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Holcim pushing through with UCC-Alcem merger

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SWISS cement giant Holcim Ltd. is currently firming up its long-standing plan to merge its Philippine subsidiaries—Union Cement Corp. and Alsons Cement Corp.—within the year to further sharpen their competitiveness in both the local and export markets.

A well-placed source said top officials of both subsidiaries know that a UCC-Alcem consolidation was currently in the works and that Holcim has only to decide when and how to effect the merger.

The source said there were two key issues that Holcim and its local partners—Phinma group in UCC and the Alcantara group in Alcem—have to hurdle to implement the merger such as the valuation of the firms' shares and management control.

The source said Phinma wanted to retain the management control of the amalgamated company citing its successful performance in keeping UCC profitable despite tough market conditions and tight competition from imports.

UCC, the country's largest cement producer, reported that its profits jumped 480 percent in 2001 to P354.809 million in 2001 from P61.167 million in 2000.

Holcim was apparently impressed by the gains achieved by UCC as it reversed the pattern of losses that the merged companies had faced individually. The merger resulted into more aggressive sales and marketing efforts, increased operating efficiencies, and sound financial management.

A merger was expected to further generate substantial cost savings in marketing, procurement and distribution.

Holcim has a 40-percent interest in UCC—which is also a product of a merger between Phinma's Davao Union Cement, Bacnotan Cement and Hi-Cement. It also owns a 45-percent equity in Alcem that it amassed three to four years ago at the height of buying binge by foreign groups in the country's cement industry.

Talks of an inevitable merger have been going on over the last two years and these rumors have persisted despite denials from the management of both sides.

Japan, Korean firms keen on PNOC-EC's coal project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

STATE-FIRM PNOC Exploration Corp. said it would push through with a P2.5-billion integrated coal mine and power plant project in Isabela province considering the interest shown by foreign investors.

PNOC-EC president Rufino Bomasang said various companies had expressed interest in participating in the project, including Japan's Nissho Iwai Corp. and the Korean Electric Power Corp.

"We are now doing a study on how best to use the available coal deposits in Isabela for power generation," Bomasang said.

The PNOC-EC chief said the study would be completed in August.

He added that the complementary study on the feasibility of putting up a 50-megawatt power plant was completed in May last year.

Bomasang noted that the bulk of the country's coal deposits were of low heating value with and high moisture content.

Bomasang said the best option was to use the coal immediately after mining, which explains why the project is called a "minemouth" power plant.

The Japan Consulting Institute, which conducted the feasibility study, recommended the initial installation of a 15-MW plant although it said a 50-MW plant was also feasible.

However, Bomasang hinted favoring a 50-MW facility for which a foreign partner was needed since it would require about $50 million to build.

He said the plant would use a clean coal technology, which was hoped to make the use of coal more acceptable to the public.

"We have signed a memorandum of agreement with the Isabela Electric Cooperative 1 (Iselco 1) for supplying its 35-MW peak demand," Bomasang said.

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2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., affix signature and your father's name, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts., 1234 Makati City.
3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of June 20, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 5 fathers/ winners will each win gift certificates from Rustan's worth PHP 1,000.00.
4. The raffle draw will be held on June 24, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.
5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw.
6. GCs are not convertible to cash.
7. Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail and their names will be announced via print ads.
8. Winners can claim their GCs at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID.
9. GCs not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from DTI.
10. Employees and staff of PDI, their advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
11. Promo is valid only in GMA. Gift Certificates are valid for one year and are acceptable at all branches.

Sample Ads

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CDC registers 5 new projects

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Five companies, including a Taiwan-based electronics firm, have signed new projects that would infuse P76.86 million in fresh investments into this economic zone.

Two other firms expanded their operations here, the state-owned Clark Development Corp. said in a report on Tuesday.

The Taiwanese Tecom Electronics, manufacturer of plasma television, computer and LCD monitors, is investing P22.26 million in its Clark plant from this year until 2005.

The CDC also approved the projects of the Ultra Bykes Network CSEZ Inc., Eurocopter Philippines Inc., Asipine Events Group Inc. and the Circle International Development Corp.

Ultra Bykes, a Filipino company which committed P50.6 million in five years, has established a technical and service center to train technicians for the manufacture of scooters and motorcycles.

The five companies brought to 317 the number of investors in Clark, a former United States Air Force base.

The new entrants also raised to P94 billion the investments poured into the economic zone.

The report said the five companies committed to hire 130 workers.

CDC president Emmanuel Angeles also announced the expansion in Clark of En-Yeh Electronics Phils. Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

GOINGS-ON

GT Food Gallery opens

GT TOWER International, a new 47-story structure in Makati, will open on June 15 its food gallery.

GT Food Gallery located on the 12th floor of GT Tower offers a thematic food court with an art museum concept interior. A portion of the food gallery is an art museum that will showcase the works of local painters. It will have a regular show for art lovers. It will be managed by Food Parks by Raintree.

GT Tower opened in December last year and is now the "home" of McCann-Erickson Phils., Toyota, Mitsui & Company Ltd. of Japan, Marie France Corporate Headquarters, Orix Metro Leasing, Dupont Far East and Metrobank Trust Division and Metro Investment Corp.

This state of the art edifice is a collaboration between American firm Kohn Pederson Fox Associates and Filipino firms such as GF & Partners Architects Co., Gozar Planners Inc. and R.A. Mojica & Partners.

GT Tower International is owned by Federal Land Inc. It is exclusively marketed and managed by Jones Lang La Salle.

Tokyo, Osaka exhibits

FILIPINOS wanting to penetrate the Japanese home construction industry have until June 21 to book a slot for the forthcoming Japan External Trade Organization (Jetro) Housing Materials Centers 14th Term Exhibition to run simultaneously in Tokyo and Osaka.

Participating local firms have the opportunity to showcase their products in Tokyo, Osaka, or both locations for more than five months during the whole exhibit term beginning Oct. 1 until March 21, 2003.

The Tokyo and Osaka exhibit centers serve as off-shore showrooms through which Filipino suppliers can reach out to prospective Japanese clients. And since the trade fair is focused primarily toward architects, designers and construction firms, Filipino firms can seize this opportunity to be recognized as a source of high-quality raw materials for home building.

The semi-annual Housing Materials Centers Exhibition is one of the many projects undertaken by Jetro that aim to forge stronger commercial and economic ties between the Philippines and Japan.

Credit card promo

EQUITABLE CardNetwork Inc., the exclusive partner of American Express International in the Philippines, recently launched a usage promotion called the "Equitable American Express Card Power Treats," which will run until July 31, 2002.

Equitable American Express Card rewards its cardholders in the Philippines with big discounts and free gifts by simply presenting the card at participating merchant establishments upon ordering.

"This promotion is part of a bigger thrust to promote Equitable American Express Card so that more consumers in the Philippines can enjoy the basic and value-added benefits that have made American Express Cards well-known the world over," says Eugenio Hernando, senior executive vice president of Equitable Card.

Equitable American Express cardholders can enjoy as much as 50 percent off the published rates at several hotels, and attractive discounts and exciting gifts at restaurants and fashion boutiques.

WEATHER PHENOMENON BRINGS DEVASTATION

After Latin America, El Niño threatens Asia

MIAMI—Five years after lashing out at about half the planet, El Niño is back, striking Latin America with killer rains and menacing a large part of the world with threats of drought, floods and devastation.

Rising surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean—one degree centigrade above average by late May—punishing rains in Central America, Colombia and Chile, as well as drought in Indonesia, clearly signal the return of El Niño, says the US National Oceanographic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA).

"The overall trend . . . are characteristics of El Niño," notes NOAA weather forecaster Vernon Kousky, predicting the phenomenon would continue until year's end.

Meteorologists in Chile also blame El Niño for the violent rainstorms that drenched the South American country earlier this month. The storms were the worst experienced by Chile in eight decades, leaving 13 people dead, damaging 10,000 buildings and forcing 65,000 to flee their homes.

Similar weather killed 16 people in Colombia, with 13 more reported missing.

In Honduras, torrential rains in recent days killed at least nine people, while in Nicaragua, thousands of people fled their homes.

But El Niño's 2002 appearance on the world's radar screens should be considerably less violent than in 1997-98—when it was dubbed the most devastating storm of the 20th century.

Five years ago, the weather phenomenon was blamed for the deaths of 22,000 people and damage in excess of $32 billion.

NOAA's estimation that El Niño would remain weak-to-moderate this year notwithstanding, the front could again cause devastating fires in northern Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Brazil, while unleashing intense rains on the west coast of South and Central America.

"Since El Niño occurs every two to seven years, we're not surprised," Jim Laver of NOAA said earlier this year.

El Niño and its opposite, La Niña, which causes a cooling of ocean temperatures, are known to have occurred periodically for hundreds of years, usually lasting 12 to 18 months.

The warming of ocean temperatures caused by El Niño causes evaporation, which in turn affects the wind systems, thereby causing significant changes in the world's climate.

The phenomenon was baptized El Niño—Spanish for "the child"—by South American fishermen who noticed an unusual warming of the waters around Christmas time, and is thought to have been named in reference to the child Jesus. *AFP*

BOJ sticks to loose policy despite economic rebound

TOKYO—The Bank of Japan said on Wednesday that it would maintain its super-loose monetary policy for now in what analysts said was a recognition both of the improved state of the economy and of the view the rebound might not last.

The bank, facing warnings about complacency when it began its two-day policy board meeting, also reiterated that it stood ready to pump more liquidity into the market should the need arise.

The decision to stand pat was widely expected despite the economy's emergence from recession in the first quarter of 2002.

The BOJ said its board had voted unanimously to keep the reserves target for banks at 10-15 trillion yen ($80 billion-$120 billion) and its monthly buying of government bonds at 1 trillion yen—part of its effective zero interest-rate policy.

"The economy is not in a situation where the BOJ must do something," said Minako Iida, economist at Deutsche Securities.

Economists also say there is little the BOJ can do through conventional monetary policy, considering it has already driven short-term rates to next to nothing. Most say it's also far too early in the recovery to talk of a rise in rates.

"There is a sign of a cyclical recovery but the strength of that recovery is still weak," said Yasuhide Yajima, senior economist at NLI Research Institute.

"There is no sign that deflation will disappear and the BOJ cannot move now . . . While further easing would not have much impact, credit tightening would have a substantially negative impact on the economy so the BOJ cannot do that either."

The BOJ got into the government's bad books when the economy went into a tailspin in late 2000, just after it last tightened credit by ending its 18-month-old zero-interest-rate policy.

Such is the animosity toward the central bank that a group of ruling party lawmakers are calling for a revision to the 1998 BOJ Act which gave it full independence.

Some in the market expect the BOJ to step back from its aggressive liquidity supply by lowering its target for the balance of commercial banks' current account deposits at the central bank.

The current 10- to 15-trillion-yen target has been in place since December 2001. *Reuters*

Thailand raises growth forecast, cites good export performance

BANGKOK—Thailand on Wednesday raised its 2002 economic growth forecast to 3.7 percent from 3.6 percent, saying its fiscal stimulus measures were paying off as consumers opened their wallets.

The finance ministry said growth was also being propelled by a better export performance and more tourist arrivals.

The economy grew just 1.8 percent in 2001 after expanding by more than 4 percent in the previous two years.

"Most of the recent economic data for March and April points to continued improvement from the beginning of the year in practically all respects," the ministry said in a statement.

Exports, accounting for about 55 percent of gross domestic product, posted their first year-on-year growth in 11 months in April.

Buoyed by the figures, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said last week he was confident the economy could achieve 4-percent growth this year.

The finance ministry's higher growth projection comes after the International Monetary Fund last month raised its forecast for economic growth this year to 3.2 percent from 2.7 percent.

The World Bank has said it expects the economy to expand 3.5 percent this year.

The finance ministry estimated the economy grew about 2.95 percent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2002, against 2.12 percent in the previous three months and 1.68 percent the same period a year ago.

The National Economic and Social Development Board, a state think tank, is due to release official first quarter economic data on Monday.

The finance ministry said a major contributor to improved economic performance was fiscal stimulus spending, which it saw rising 11.2 percent year-on-year in 2002. *Reuters*

2 OUT OF 5 ARE ILLEGAL

Pirated music growing out of control

SAN FRANCISCO—Two out of every five music recordings sold worldwide in 2001 were illegal copies, with China, Russia, Brazil, Indonesia and Mexico leading the trend, a global recording industry trade group said Tuesday.

Sales of pirate CDs alone rose to 950 million last year from 640 million a year earlier, the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (Ifpi) reported.

With CDs and cassettes combined, the group said, 1.9 million bogus recordings flooded global markets last year, resulting in the two out of five figure.

In 2000, that ratio was one out of every five, the group reported.

According to the Ifpi, music piracy accounted for some $4.3 billion last year. That was only a slight increase in value from $4.2 billion in 2000, because of "sharply falling prices of pirate CD-R discs," the organization said.

The group said that illegal music sales now outnumber legal music sales in 25 countries—predominantly "developing markets."

The group called for a global crackdown on illegal CD copying.

"Tolerance of piracy fosters lawlessness and tax evasion," said Ifpi member Rick Dobbis, who is also president of Sony Music International.

Dobbis said pirating CDs cuts off local record sellers from earnings of the legal distribution chain.

"Some of the hardest hit victims of this growing problem are local economies," he said in a statement accompanying Ifpi's figures.

"Owners of local record stores, CD plant workers, marketing, promotion and distribution people, and workers from every aspect of the complex business of making and distributing music are all affected."

The industry group said CD pirating is now equally divided between "large-scale" operations and smaller garage-based producers.

According to the report, China tops the list of illegal sales, with 90 percent of music sales being fake, followed by Indonesia (85 percent), Russia (65 percent), Mexico (60 percent) and Brazil (55 percent).

The Ifpi said that South Asia "remains the hub of pirate CD manufacturing." Seven out of 10 illegal disks come from the region, the group reported.

In April, the London-based group reported that the global music market fell 5 percent in value and saw a 6.5-percent drop in unit sales in 2001. The Ifpi argues that drop is due to pirating. *AFP*

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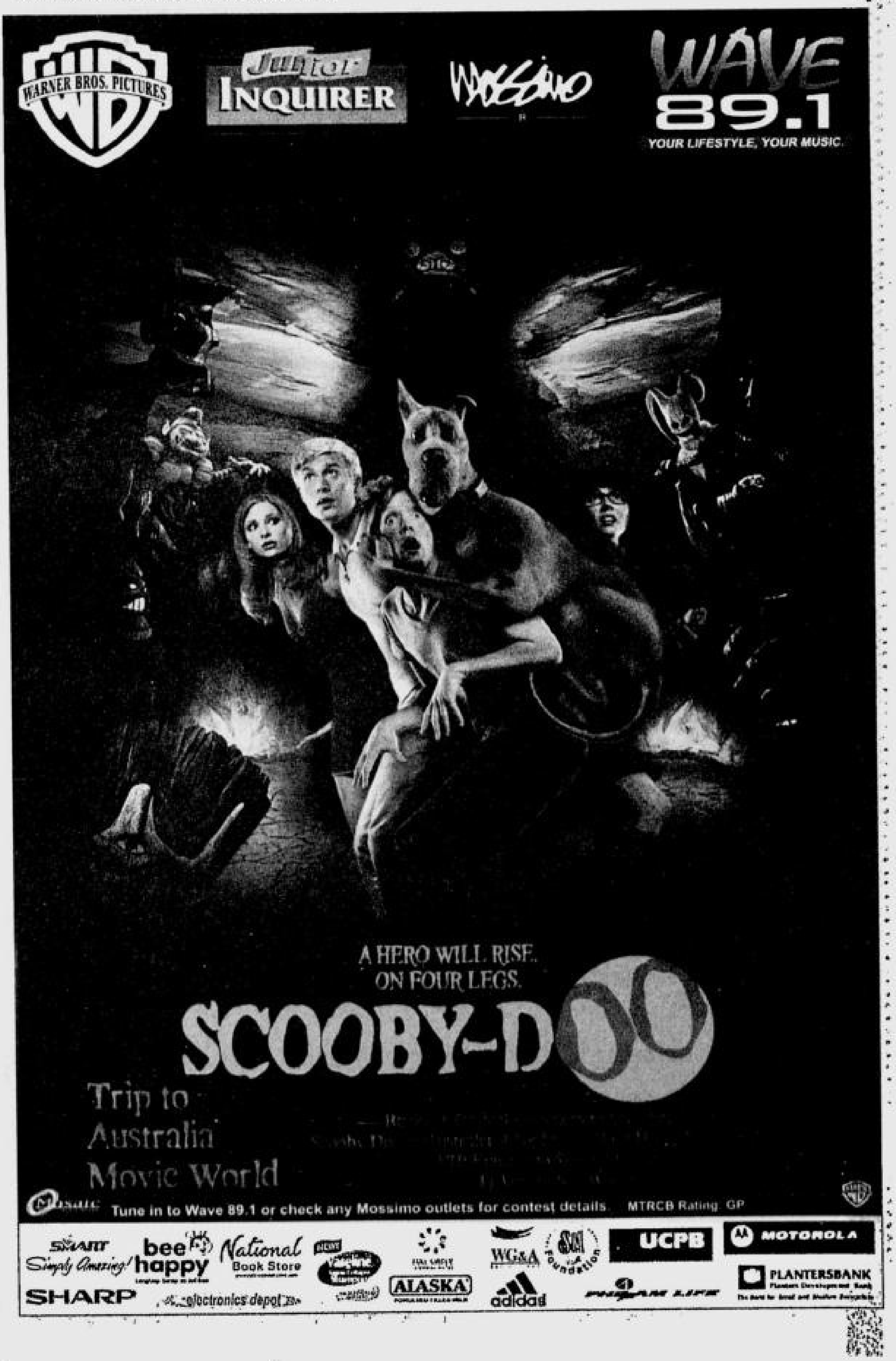

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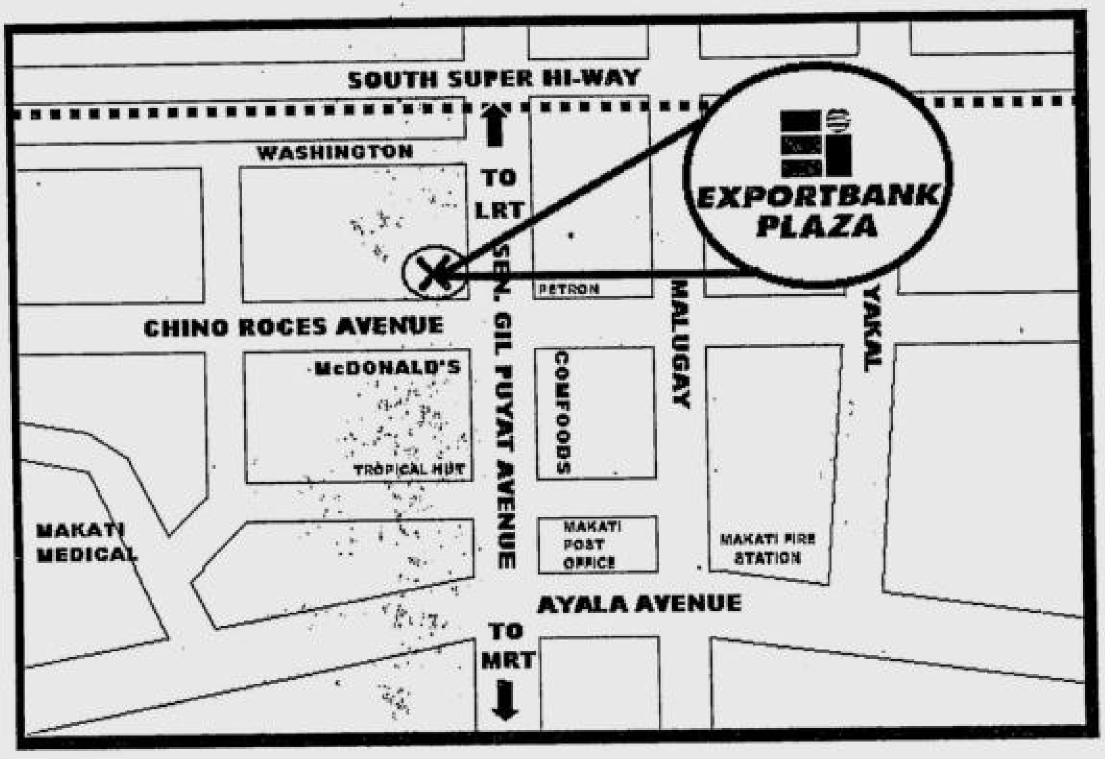

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INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 26 June 2002, 2:00 p.m., at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
VAB-52	Loyola, Grand Villas Subd., Baranka, Marikina City	1,320 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 204465)	P 6,750,000.00
MED-133	7 Calle Azul, Tierra Hermosa II, BF Executive Homes, Almanza I, Las Piñas City	288 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-70413) with one-storey building	P 1,511,600.00
LRD-151	28 Chico Road, Potrero, Malabon, Metro Manila	164 m² lot (TCT No. M-21169) with two-storey residential house	P 1,000,000.00
BATANGAS			
LAO-04	Brgy. Dagatan, Lipa City	9,312 m² agro-industrial lot (TCT No. T-132773)	P 7,915,200.00
MMC-164	National Road, San Rafael, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	1,185 m² residential-industrial lot (TCT No. T-86841) with office/lab/factory and freezing equipment and accessories	P 4,364,000.00
CAVITE			
CST-7	Caridad, Cavite City	150 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-15275) with split-type building	P 441,000.00
VCP-98	Greenbreeze Subd. I, Bo. Lancaan, Dasmariñas Cavite	200 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-979115)	P 260,000.00
LAGUNA			
CST-1	Bo. Maytalang, Lumban, Laguna	2,359 m² commercial-industrial lot (TCT No. T-177629)	P 2,594,900.00
CST-2	Bo. Maytalang, Lumban, Laguna	2,359 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-177809)	P 2,594,900.00
CST-3	Bo. Maytalang, Lumban, Laguna	2,359 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-177810)	P 2,359,000.00
CST-4	Bo. Maytalang, Lumban, Laguna	2,359 m² vacant agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-177808)	P 2,359,000.00
CST-5	Bo. Maytalang, Lumban, Laguna	2,359 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-177759)	P 2,359,000.00
CST-6	Don Manuel Subd., Diversion Rd., Brgy. Bulilan Norte, Pila, Laguna	214 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-177630) with building and improvements	P 1,729,900.00
PAMPANGA			
VPI-75b	Dolores Heights, Brgy. Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga	402 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 481055-R)	P 1,447,200.00
VPI-75a	Dolores Heights, Brgy. Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga	4 adjoining individually titled vacant residential lots (TCT No. 481051-R to 481054-R) (216 m² each) (Sale on per TCT basis)	P 777,600.00 per TCT
VPI-75c	Don Bonifacio Subd., Brgy. Bonifacio, Balibago, Angeles City	6 individually titled residential lots (TCT Nos. 114587 to 114591 and 114593) (300 m² to 356 m²) (Sale on per TCT basis)	P 120,000.00 to P 142,400.00 per TCT
RIZAL			
LTY-50	35 Sto. Niño St., Ma. Corazon Subd. Cupang, Antipolo City	2 parcels of industrial-residential lot (total area of 520 m²) (TCT Nos. 284045 & 284046) with 2 two-storey office/factory bldgs., fence, water system and one set non-operational cold storage freezer/chiller.	P 2,660,000.00
LRD-110	Bagumbayan, Teresa, Rizal	3,747 m² interior agricultural lot (TCT No. M-96063) with piggery buildings and water system	P 1,918,000.00

CHATTELS (Sale on "as is, where is" basis)

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
MMC-164a	National Road, San Rafael, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	16 units various machinery and equipment for fruit juice processing	P 816,200.00
VPI-62	La Campana Cmpd., EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	7 units of construction/heavy equipment	P 3,100.00 to P 399,100.00 per unit
VLD-99a to 99c	Bo. Mamala, Sariaya, Quezon	7 units of feedmilling equipment with ACC Electric Genset; and storage tanks	P 58,700.00 to P 282,500.00
VPI-81	La Campana Cmpd., EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	1 unit Road Grader, HUBER WARCO	P 160,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit bid in DBP's official bid form available at the Acquired Assets Sales Unit, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours.
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

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SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI - June 13 & 14, 2002)

OBITUARIES

"My Soul finds rest in God alone;
from Him comes my salvation."
Psalm 62:2

ATTY. JOSE NERGUA NOLLEDO

Peacefully joined his Creator on
11 June 2002 at the age of 67.

His bereaved family: WIFE **MERCEDITA**; CHILDREN **MICHAEL** AND **PAULINE LERMA**, **EMILIE GRACE** AND **MARCO LUCENA**, AND **NICO JOSE**; GRANDCHILDREN **NICOLE** AND **KATE LUCENA**, SISTERS, IN-LAWS, NEPHEWS, NIECES, OTHER RELATIVES AND FRIENDS request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at the Resurrecion Chapel, Our Lady of Beautiful Love Church, Merville, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 15, 2002 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

ANGEL R. LUNTOK

*Rejoined His Maker and wife **ISABEL** at the age of 95*
on Wednesday, 12 June 2002

His mortal remains lie at the Imperial Funeral Homes, Peñafrancia Avenue, Naga City.

His family requests the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul **ANGEL JR.** and **ALICE**, **THESSIE**, **LAGRIMAS** and **EDDIE GALANG**, **ISIDORO** and **EDITA**.

Funeral will be on Saturday, June 15, 2002 at the Peñafrancia Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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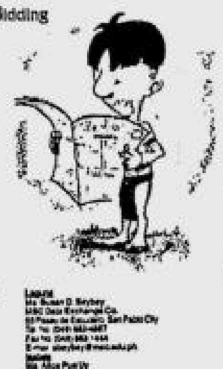

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We, the family of the late

DR. JOHN T. TALAVERA, M.D.

of Candon, Ilocos Sur and Capas, Tarlac
who passed away on May 18, 2002
wish to express our sincere gratitude to all those who comforted us, in all forms, during the time of our bereavement.

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"For God so loved the world, that
He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him
should not perish, but
have eternal life."

Nilo Enrile Mallari

Has joined his Creator on June 12, 2002
at the age of 52.

His mortal remains has been cremated and lie in state at St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susana Parish, Commerce Avenue, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City from June 13 to June 15, 2002.

His wife **Gigi**; children **Noel** and **Anya**; brother **Larry**; sister **Linda**; brother-in-law **Claro**; nephew **Carlo**; and niece **Nina**; and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Interment arrangements to be announced later. Please omit flowers.

"My heart is ready O God. I will sing praise and make music. Awake my soul!...
For great is your love above the heavens, your faithfulness beyond the skies."
Psalm 108:2-5

ALICIA YSIP MABANTA

Peacefully went home to her Creator on the 11th day of June 2002
at the age of 77.

Devoted wife of Roman (Romy) Mabanta, Jr.

Loving mother of Jiggs, Rosanne & Rick Watson, Bobby & Dottie, Rusty & Tina, Lydia & Jim Paredes, Nandy & Karl Kruger, Ricky & Chato, Pinky & Peter Gonzales, Marty & Vangie, Ollie & Butch Campos.

Beloved lola of Korinne and Jose Razo, Eric Watson, Anton, Robert, Nikko & Daniella Mabanta, Elaine & Andrea Mabanta, Erica, Ala & Mio-Paredes, Kristin & Kevin Kruger, Paolo, Lara & Sabrina Mabanta, Lissy Gonzales, Miguel & Gabriel Mabanta, and Jamie Campos.

Her remains will be at the Santa Maria della Strada Parish Church, Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, starting Thursday, June 13, 2002, where daily Masses will be offered.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 15, 2002, at the crypt of Christ the King Parish, Green Meadows after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at Santa Maria della Strada Parish Church.

In lieu of flowers, her family requests donations to Our Lady of Pentecost Parish and the Convent of the Holy Spirit (Pink Sisters).

"Give thanks to the Lord for He is great, for His love endures forever."
Psalm 107:1

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BUSINESS

DOF to target corporate tax evaders

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has ordered the internal revenue and customs bureaus to carry out an "intensive audit program" targeting corporate tax cheats and evaders.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho told reporters that the government was expecting to increase its revenue collections this year by about P11 billion from the implementation of this program.

The government believes the biggest leakage in tax collection is in the corporate sector, according to Camacho.

"There is a big leakage in the system, and it's widely known. Now we need to plug it, and we are working on plugging it," he said.

Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez said the figure tossed by Camacho was very tentative and was likely a sum of the combined audit efforts of the BIR and Bureau of Customs.

"The figures we have, in terms of additional collections, are still very rough. I am working on the details of the audit program, and I may be able to come up with it early next week," Bañez said in an interview.

The finance department estimates that the government loses about P50 billion in leakage from corporate income taxes.

The government has yet to fully implement measures aimed at reducing cheating. These include implementing an industry benchmark, strictly monitoring corporate taxpayers, auditing taxpayers from selected industries and carrying out an issue-oriented audit.

On top of these measures, the BIR is also working on a more specific program to curb tax cheating. No details were made available to reporters.

Finance officials believe corporate tax evasion is partly to blame for the BIR's poor collection in the first four months of the year, when its deficiency went P16 billion beyond its target.

Aussie court to hear CalEnergy row

ARBITRATION proceedings on a $24-million (P1.2-billion) dispute between the PNOC Energy Development Corp. and US firm CalEnergy International is set to push through in the last week of the month.

Hearings were supposed to have started in December.

PNOC-EDC chair Sergio Apostol said in an interview that the state firm would send a team to attend hearings in Sydney, Australia.

"Our disagreement revolves around whether CalEnergy was actually delivering power to PNOC-EDC at the contracted capacity of 216 megawatts," Apostol said. "We insist they had been delivering only 209 MW."

The PNOC-EDC chief said the 7-MW discrepancy accounted for $3 million a year.

The state firm, developer of the Tongonan steam field in Leyte, has an agreement with CalEnergy to convert the steam to electricity.

Meantime, CalEnergy's geothermal facilities in Tongonan are under 10-year build-operate-transfer contracts with PNOC-EDC.

PNOC-EDC expects to gain ownership of the following power plants in 2007:

- 125-MW Upper Mahiao plant;
- 232-MW Malitbog power complex; and
- optimization plants totaling 50 MW.

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Manila Water says year-end net income to surpass ₱450M

THE MANILA Water Co. Inc. said its net income by year's end should hit P450 million, way above last year's P176 million.

Manila Water president Antonino Aquino told the INQUIRER that the company, a subsidiary of the Ayala conglomerate, would cut back on its operating expenditures and be more efficient to reach this goal.

Aquino disclosed that over the past five years, Manila Water has been able to trim its operating expenditures by 20 percent.

The company's revenues have been surpassing its expenditures since 1999, according to Aquino.

Manila Water's total revenues last year hit P1.5 billion, exceeding expenditures placed at P1.26 billion, he said.

"The financial performance of Manila Water has been improving steadily over the last four years. From a net loss in 1997, we were able to strike a profit in 2001 of P176 million," Aquino disclosed.

He said Manila Water's total revenues had consistently grown from P960 million in 1998 to P1.565 billion in 2001.

The company has been able to chalk up gains, as it has managed to contain losses from leakage, pilferage, and buster meters and pipes, also referred to as "non-revenue water," or NRWs, according to Aquino.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System is set to require NRWs as a service obligation of its concessionaires.

Manila Water is an MWSS concessionaire. The other concessionaire is Maynilad Water Services Inc.

Christine A. Gaylican

Gold mining sector grows 15% in Q1 on BSP purchases

THE LOCAL gold mining sector grew 15 percent in terms of production and 33 percent in terms of value in the first quarter of the year due to higher purchases from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

"The increases were mainly due to the larger purchases of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas primarily from small-scale miners," government mining economist Benjamin de Vera said in an interview.

The growth in production came partly from a 57-percent increase in output tendered by Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp.'s Victoria gold mine in Benguet.

Mining operations of Manila Mining Corp. and Maricalum Mining Corp. also contributed to a substantial growth in production.

De Vera said the significant increase in production was beneficial to the gold mining sector, as gold prices in the world market has increased to more than $300 per ounce.

Mindanao traders ready regional policy proposals

MINDANAO businessmen are holding regional consultations to outline policy thrusts that they want Malacañang to consider in the drafting of its Mindanao agenda.

The consultations are conducted by the Mindanao Business Council in coordination with the local business chambers in preparation for the 11th Mindanao Business Conference (MinBizCon) on Aug. 29 to 31 in Surigao City.

The consultations kicked off in Davao City on May 28. The next one was held in General Santos City on May 30. Further consultations will be held in Zamboanga City on June 6, Agusan del Sur on June 13, and Cagayan de Oro on June 14.

The MBC sees these consultations as appropriate venues for threshing out business and policy issues that will impact on Mindanao and its various regions and provinces. These issues will be presented to the President during the MinBizCon for action.

In the previous years, MBC had successfully lobbied for a 30- to 34-percent increase in Mindanao's budget. It also had fought for the repeal of the controversial Executive Order No. 59 that seemed to have allowed the proliferation of monopolies in the shipping industry. It, likewise, played a crucial role in winning government recognition for Mindanao's strategic role in the Philippine food industry.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2002

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A SYMPHONY/ p.C2

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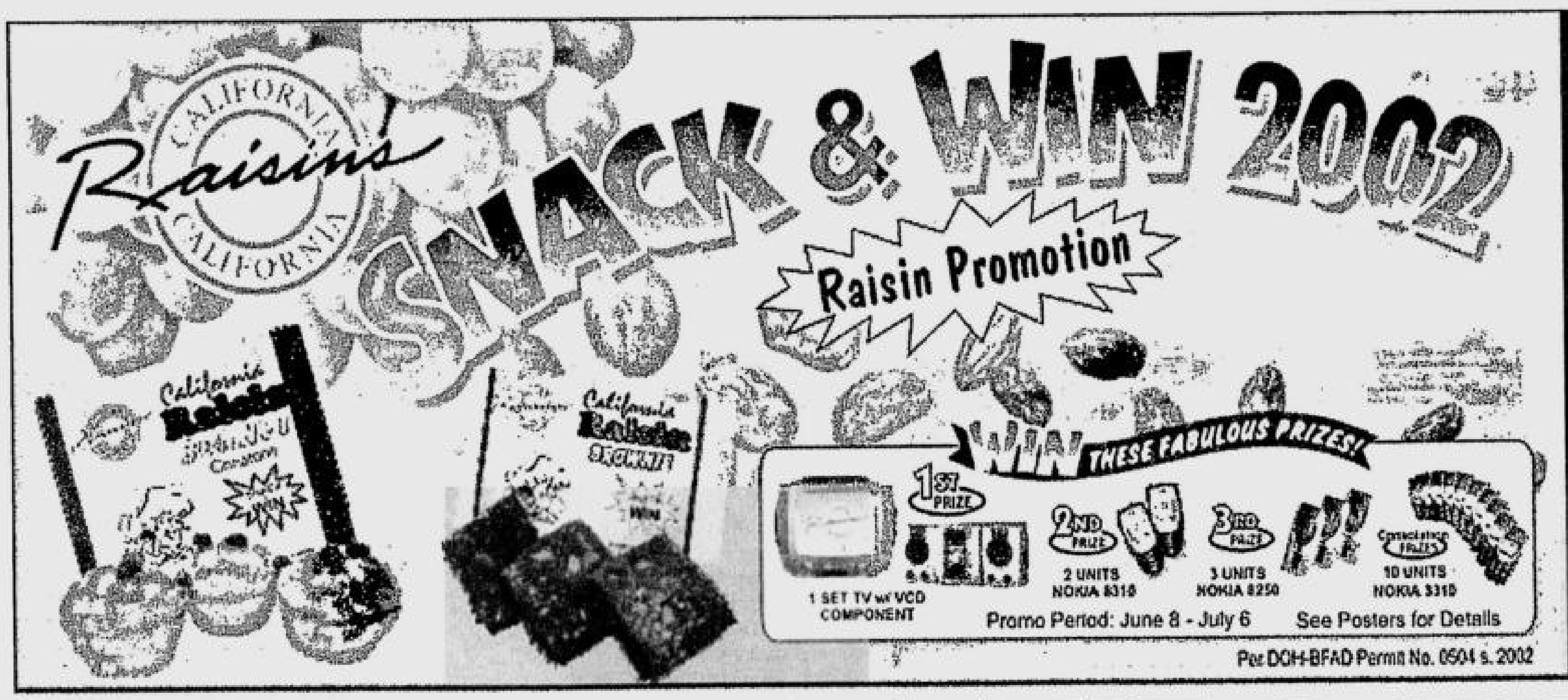
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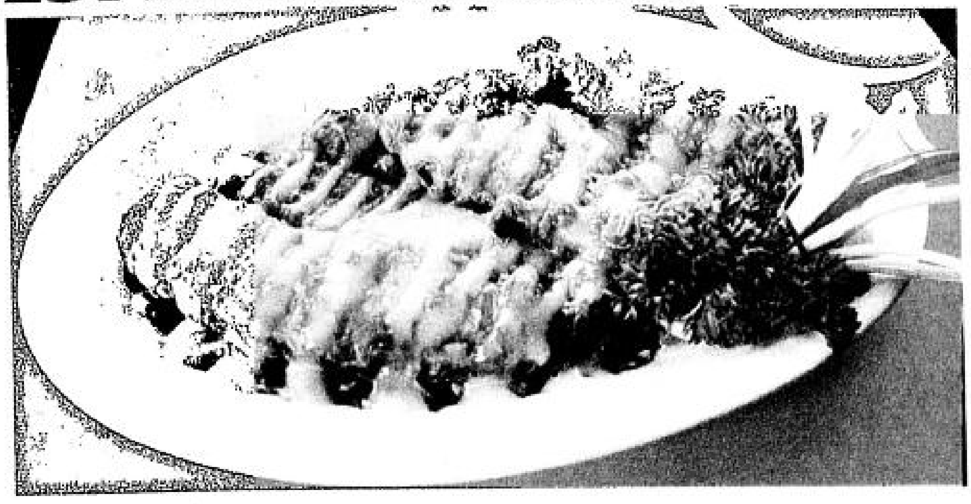


BONELESS Tilapia with Honey-Mayo Sauce

A symphony of Oriental flavors

THE CORRS' favorite: Little Asia's Fried Chicken

Text by Remy M. Umerez
Contributor
Photos by Johnny Villena

WHAT do David Pomeranz, James Ingram, Patti Austin, Christopher Cross, Rex Smith, 98 Degrees and The Corrs have in common aside from being top-rated entertainers?

They have tasted and enjoyed the food catered by Little Asia, the 7-month-old restaurant strategically located at 195-B corner Tomas Morato and Scout Fuentebella, QC (tel. 373-0609). For easier direction, it is right across the newly opened Ratsky.

The Corrs went wild over Little Asia's Fried Chicken, a specialty of the house and the No. 1 dish most customers order.

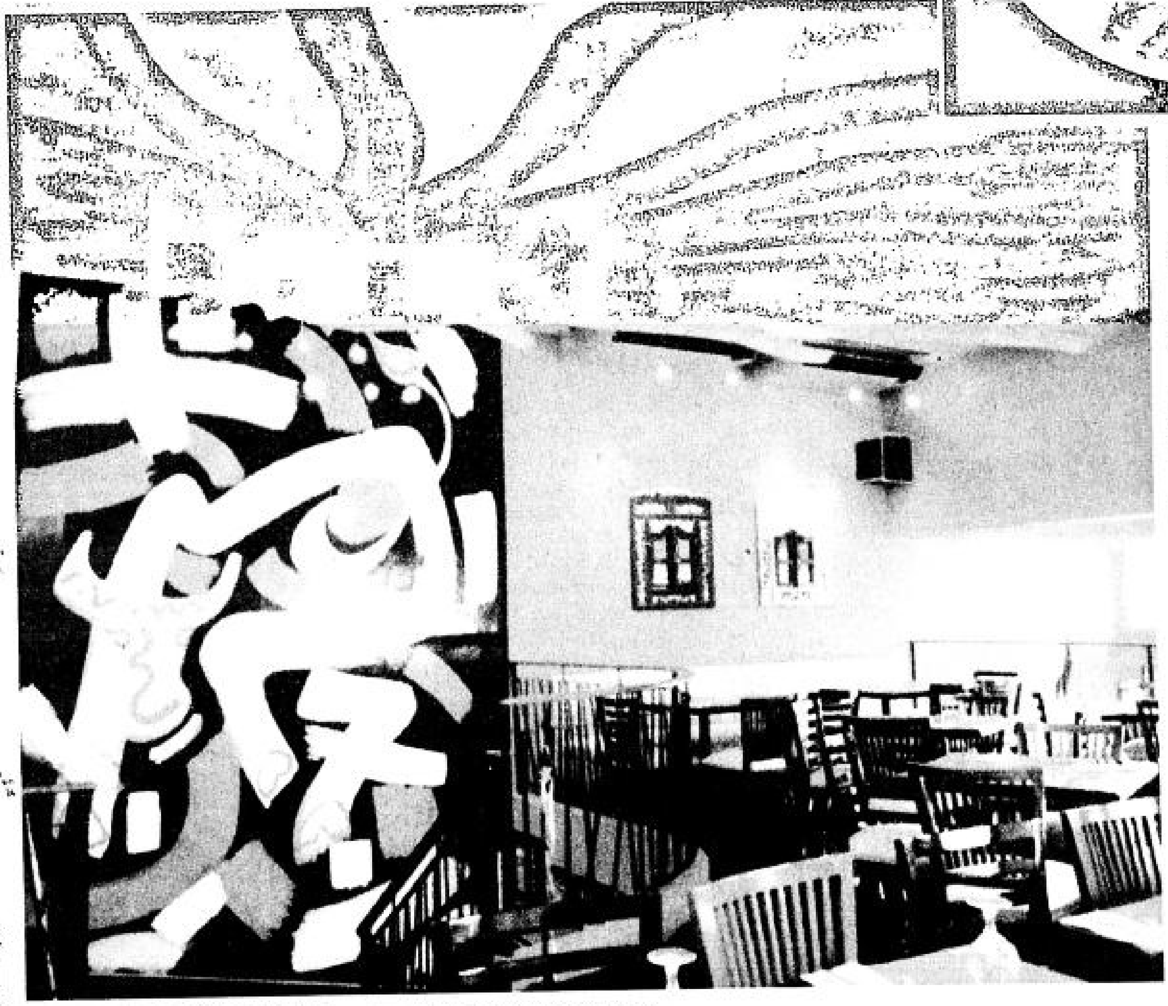
The secret, according to Charlemagne Lim, general manager, lies in having the chicken marinated overnight in 10 different herbs and spices, a recipe handed down by his grandfather.

Another top favorite is the Vietnamese Chicken with orange and honey. It is grilled and boneless.

Little Asia offers a mixture of gastronomical delights from the Philippines and its neighboring countries, cooked to perfection by sous chef Charlson Lim, who happens to be the younger and only brother of Charlemagne. The food, as the subtext puts it, is a symphony of flavors.

Asian wok

The restaurant boasts of an Asian wok that can only be found in five other places, all of them hotels. They use imported vegetable oil and their Kikkoman is the one with the Chinese letters unlike the ones sold at supermarkets.



SUNNY DISPOSITION. Ceiling artwork is conversation piece.

For lovers of meat, Beef Tenderloin Rolls in Teriyaki Sauce is not to be missed. It is rolled sliced beef with chopped vegetables and cheese sautéed in special teriyaki sauce.

Only in Little Asia can one find the softest part of the lamb, a personal favorite and highly recommended by the chef. It is called Lambloin, cooked with teriyaki and butter sauce.

Cantonese Prawns is a seafood delight sautéed with melted cheese and cream sauce. Reasonably priced at P285 (five medium-sized prawns, mind you, not big shrimps), it is among the best-selling dishes in the restaurant. Its exotic version, Velvet Prawns, is deep-fried with caramelized cashew.

For a Chinese family dining out, a meal will not be complete without Saté Sotanghon Prawns, which consists of prawns and vermicelli noodles in saté broth.

The highly recommended dishes on the menu are marked with yellow sunbursts, making it easier and faster for the diners to choose the food they want to order or try for the first time.

For appetizers, Shrimp Curls with Mango Dip, Prawns Wrapped in Bacon and Vietnamese Spring Rolls are the best bets. The latter is stuffed with noodles, pork, crab and mushrooms served with Nuoc Cham dipping sauce.

Actor Ricky Davao goes for Little Asia's salad with crisp lettuce leaves and slivered Parmesan cheese with balsamic vinaigrette.

The Ebi Tempura serves the longest shrimps available in the market. It is deep-fried with Soy Mirin Radish Sauce and only costs P295.

Thirty kilos of *tilapia* are consumed every day and all because of the very tempting Boneless Tilapia sautéed in onion, garlic and honey-mayonnaise dressing.

Vegetarians should check out the Agedashi Tofu or fried tofu with sweet soy radish sauce. There are also the Japanese Tofu Steak, pan-fried tofu with shredded chicken, mushrooms and *kuchay*, and the Gabi Cake or fried taro cake with sautéed veggies and steamed broccoli with prawns and mushrooms.

For dessert, there are four recommended treats but topping the list is Caramel Banana Tower, or baked wontons with caramelized bananas and vanilla ice cream.

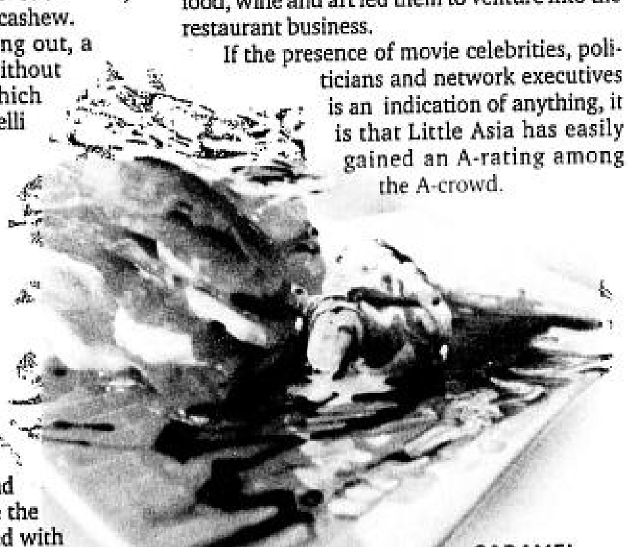
Changing colors

Little Asia is a concept restaurant with unique architectural design. The circular building (which cost P20 million to construct) is painted in colors that change as the sun descends. The walls and ceilings evoke the exotic cultures of Asia with an 80-year-old Mandura from Thailand and paper lantern from Bali. At closer range, you can spot a water buffalo but hidden somewhere within the abstraction are Vietnamese farmers.

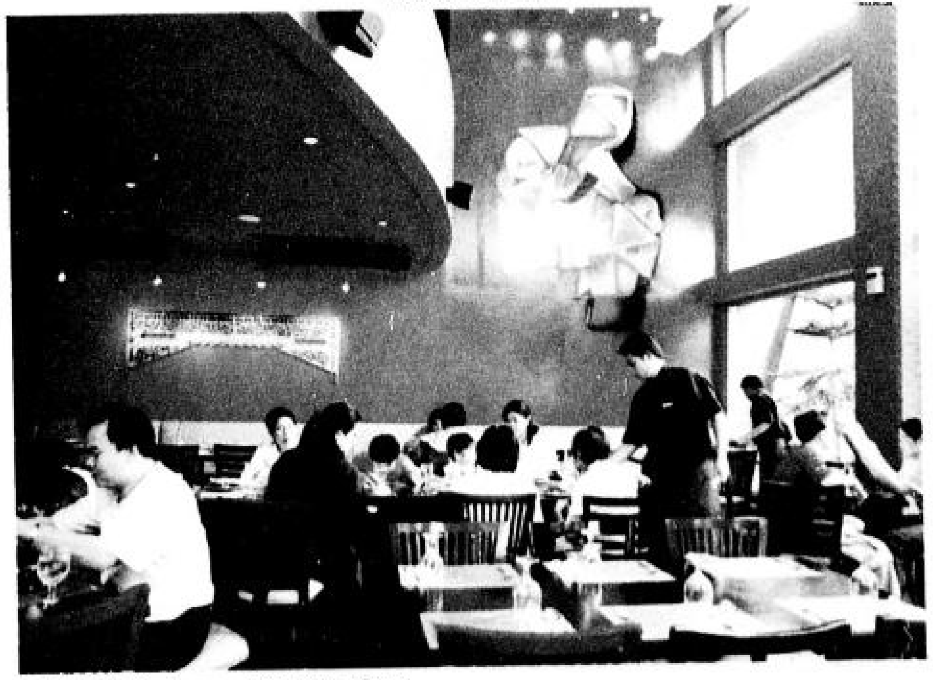
On the contemporary side of the design, the illuminated fiberglass basin, minute intricacies of cupboard knobs and the huge handmade ceiling sun are positive indications of unbounded energy. The second floor, which sits 75 persons, is open for birthdays and other social functions. The level ground sits just about the same number of people.

The hardworking owners of Little Asia—Charlemagne and Charlson and sister Charlynn—are in their early 20s. The fourth business partner, who is credited for the interiors, is Nelson Manabat, whose passion for good food, wine and art led them to venture into the restaurant business.

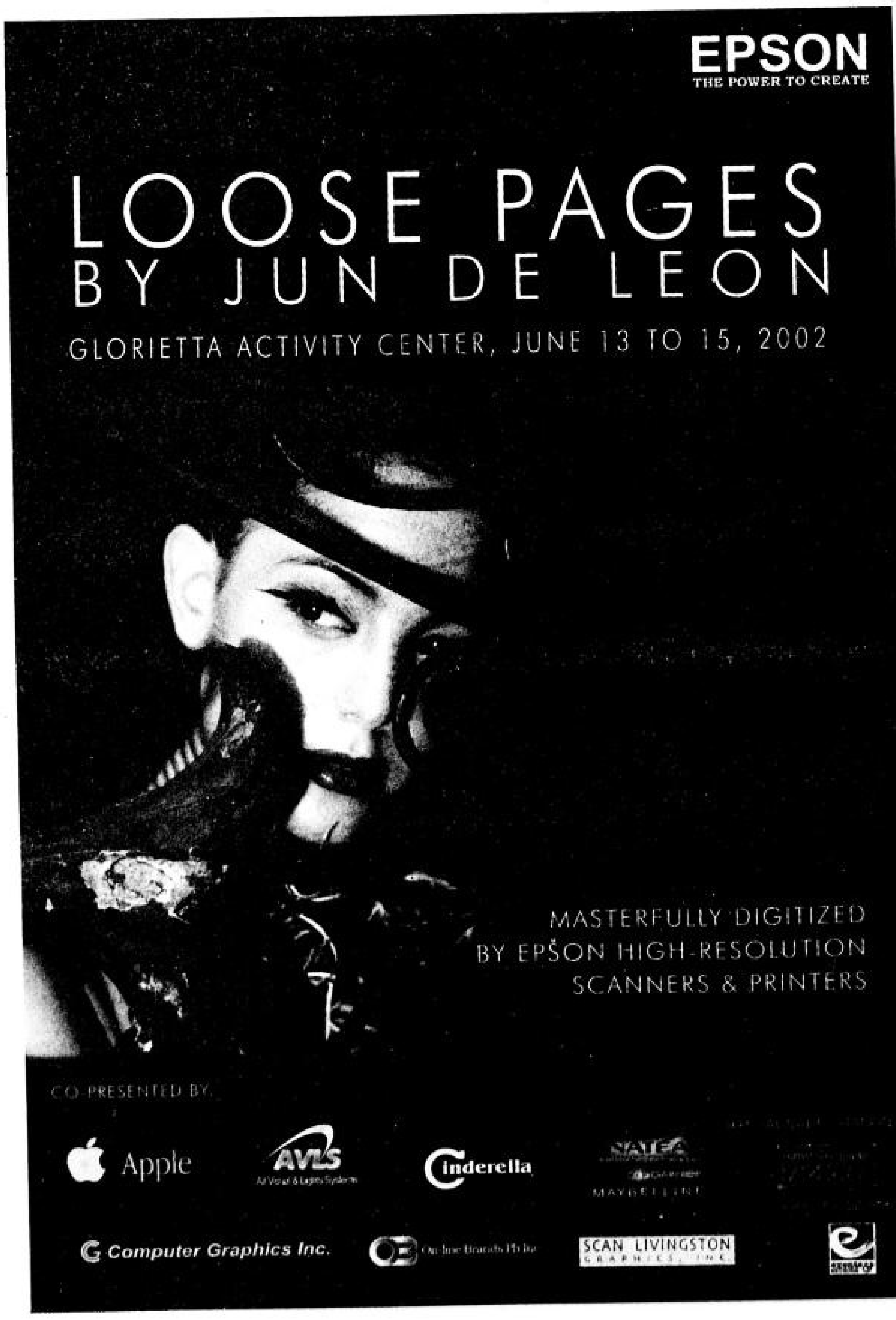
If the presence of movie celebrities, politicians and network executives is an indication of anything, it is that Little Asia has easily gained an A-rating among the A-crowd.



CARAMEL Banana Tower



BALINESE lantern and Thai Mandura



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BY JUN DE LEON

GLORIETTA ACTIVITY CENTER, JUNE 13 TO 15, 2002

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Everything, including the banana

From page C4

into inter-flavoring), simple and savory.

It is my all-time favorite Asian dish, and I have been secretly tracking it all over Manila, noting where it is available, how well it is cooked, how graciously it is served. Although my secret list is not yet complete and not quite publishable, this one at the Banana Leaf Curry House is one of the best I have tried in Manila: the chicken tender and golden, neatly cut; the serving dishes compatible and convenient.

Sanirose Orbeta, remembering our dating days at Café Indonesia in the '50s, wanted Nasi Goreng (Indonesian fried rice), but was deflected to Penang Fried Rice because it had salted fish and chicken. My nurse Winnie Cantos, whose food passion lie in pastas and noodles, was delighted with Penang Char Kway Teow (with pork, seafood, bean sprouts, green chives and egg) on the spicy side. I told her how Penang and KL fans would follow their favorite *kway teow* sidewalk cooks wherever they moved.

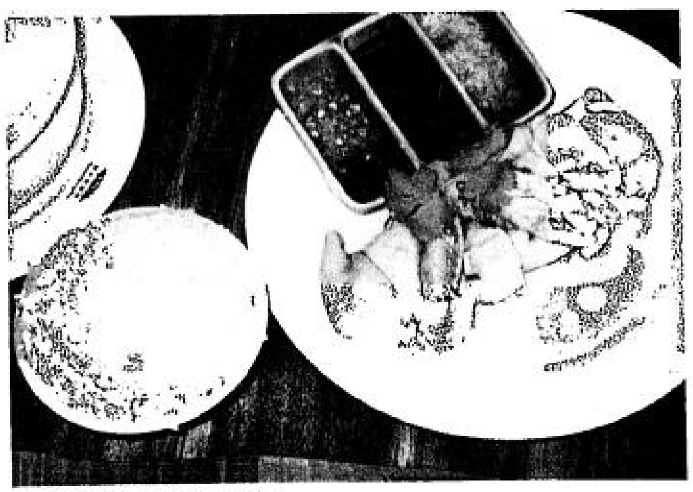
Being near-vegetarian, Sanirose also enjoyed the succulent Sautéed Assorted Fresh Mushrooms with garlic and white wine, and the Stir-Fried Malaysian Noble Green Leaves (green pea shoots) with Garlic. And, of course, we had to try one of the many curries: Malayan chicken or lamb; flank curry with potatoes; Black Curry Lamb; Thai Red Curry Chicken with ground peanuts; Assam Curry Fish Head; Banana Leaf Curry Fish Head; King Prawn Curry with Masala, and more. The waitress recommended the frequently ordered hit: Green Curry Chicken, Thai Style, which was good.

From experience, I learned that hot food should not be cooled down by gallons of water or soft drinks. I found the Fresh Lime Juice Soda a wonderful refresher and accompaniment. Sanirose had the Indonesian Iced Cendol, and Winnie, a smooth Banana Cooler. There are as well mango, pineapple, papaya and *nata de coco* coolers and other iced drinks.

When we finally reached the dessert phase, we found many semifamiliar dishes: Pisang Goreng or banana fritters like our *maruyang saging;* Iced Kacang with Ice Cream, which is like a de luxe *halo-halo;* Sweet Sago Soup with Coconut Milk, a bit like guinumis; Bubur Char-Char, hot *ginataan* with bananas and beans: Sago Pudding in Thai Pandan Leaf. "Like tiny *tibok-tibok,*" Sani thought, and my favorite Thai dessert, Sticky Rice with Mango, which is a kind of *mangga't suman,* with a special sauce on the latter. Asian sisterhood is obvious in our desserts.

There is good food at the Banana Leaf Curry House, and we recommend it. The ambiance went from loud and noisy (because of a large, rowdy party right in the center), to quite pleasant (after they left) with the sound of a waterfall at the side. The service started off rocky, when the place was at high decibels. The waitresses plunked menus in front of two (out of three) of us, and demanded our orders. But we hadn't even had time to look at the 14 pages!, I protested. Why don't you offer us drinks? She did, by pointing to the table card. I guess that noise can get you down until you lose common courtesy.

When things calmed down, however, we found the serving personnel fast and attentive; they answered hand signals even if they weren't the ones assigned to our table; they brought the food fast, and hot or cold from both the drinks counter and the kitchen (where Chinese, Filipino, Thai, etc. chefs reign). They couldn't answer questions on the food, but then there were the pictures as primary information. We will return another day, praying that no rowdy parties will spoil a potentially good experience.


HAINANESE Chicken Rice

CLINICAL nutritionist Sanirose Orbeta having Indonesian Iced Cendol

Delightful treats for dads

DINING OUT

FESTIVAL Supermall in Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang offers special treats for fathers on June 14-16. Every food purchase worth P1,000 at any restaurant on Chefs' Avenue entitles a father to a souvenir photo at a designated picture booth located on the 3/L Chefs' Avenue.
On June 16, 1-3 p.m., dads can watch a movie with the family for free at the Festival Cinema. Every food purchase worth P1,000 at any restaurant at Chefs' Avenue entitles one to Festival Cinema Gold tickets. Meanwhile, dads can also get a free cinnamon sugar from Beavertails for every purchase of four cinema tickets at the Festival Cinema, good until June 20. Call 850-3517.

AT MARIO'S Restaurant on T. Morato, QC and Baguio City, fathers who dine with their families on June 16 are invited to show off their golf swing in the "Putt for a Prize" contest. Winners get free wine, gift certificates for lunch and dinner and discount coupons. The menu consists of Minestrone Soup con ceci, a choice of Peppercorn Steak with Bourbon sauce or Crispy Salmon with Saffron Jus, and Flan de Café for dessert.

AT SBARRO Italian Eatery, every P300 worth of food purchase will entitle fathers to special gifts. Choose from Sbarro's wide array of pizza and pasta specialties: Hawaiian, Meat Delight, Pepperoni, Sausage, Mushroom, and Supreme Pizzas; Baked Ziti, Lasagna, Fettuccini, Spaghetti Pastas. Highly recommended are: Roasted Chicken with special rice, garlic bread or delicious salads. Cap your meal with desserts such as Tiramisu, Chocolate Mousse and Carrot Cake. Sbarro branches are located at SM City North Edsa, SM Megamall A, Robinsons Place Manila, Glorietta 2 and Festival Supermall in Alabang.

MANDARIN Oriental offers the best selection of wines from France, Italy, Australia, Chile and the United States for the "Clipper Lounge Wine Bazaar" on June 15-16, 12 nn-8 p.m. at the hotel's newly refurbished mezzanine lounge. Perfectly timed for Father's Day, the event provides shoppers over 40 different wine varieties to choose from. Wine buyers may consume the wines they have purchased without additional corkage fees during bazaar hours at any of Mandarin Oriental's eight restaurants. Call 750-8888 local 2401 /2402.

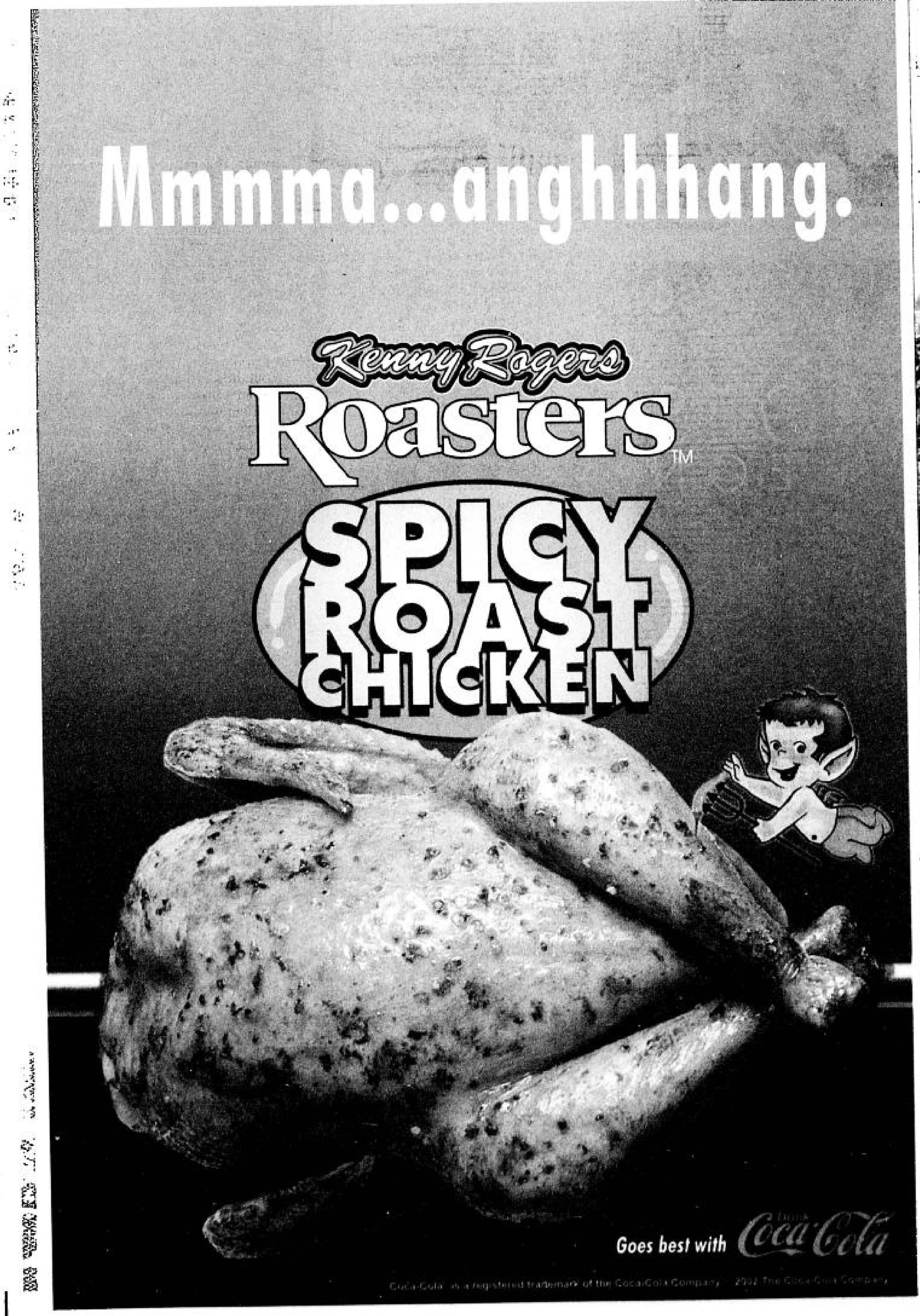
THE RICHMONDE Hotel celebrates Father's Day with a seafood lunch buffet. Dads also get a special gift courtesy of The Richmonde Grill and a chance to win hotel gift certificates for an overnight stay in a deluxe room or lunch buffet for two at the Grill in the Father's Day raffle. Call 638-7777.

THE TOWER Club offers a special promo this Father's Day. Today until June 15, The Taipan and The Continental restaurants have prepared special set menus. All male club members and guests who dine for lunch or dinner at The Taipan or The Continental on June 13-15 are entitled to the raffle with prizes from Allen-Edmonds, maker of leather shoes.

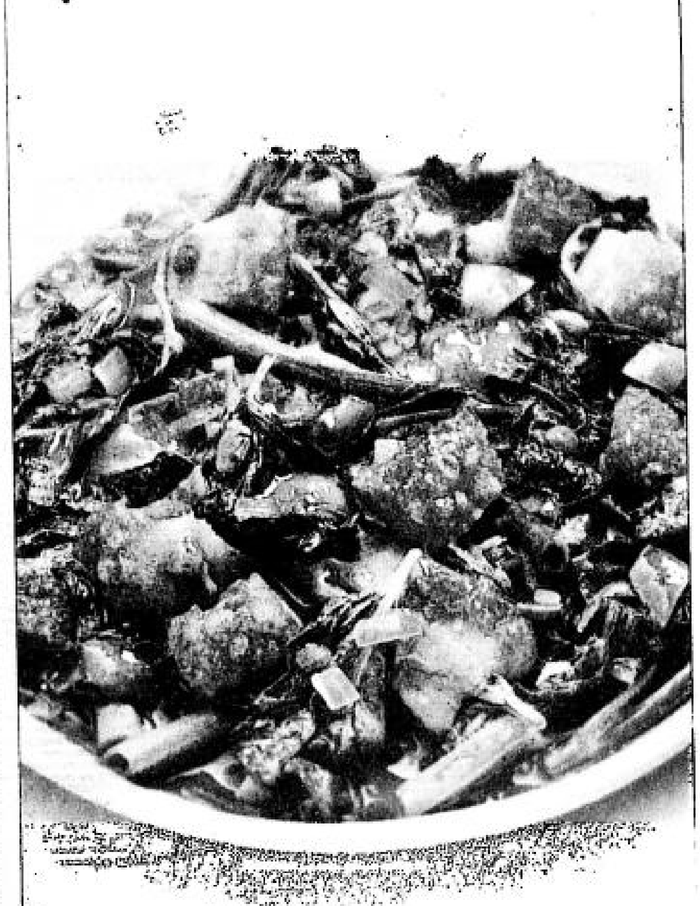
THE NEW World Renaissance Hotel's Coffee Shop offers a buffet of *lechon*, roast beef and turkey for lunch and dinner. Bocarinos prepares a lunch buffet and regular à la carte menu for dinner. The Emperor Court offers Chinese lunch and dinner buffets highlighted by Vietnamese dishes. All fathers are invited to participate in the Ring-A-Toss game at the Lobby and win prizes. Call 811-6888.

THE CENTURY Park Hotel's Café in the Park offers lunch and dinner buffet menus and special giveaways to all fathers who will dine on Father's Day. For an authentic Japanese treat, the Unkai Restaurant prepares delightful dishes. The Deli Shop has a variety of goodies—sausages, cold cuts, assorted pastries and Father's Day cakes— available until June 16. Call 528-8888 local 5837 or 2739.

AT THE MANILA Galleria Suites' Raphael Café Restaurant, lucky dads may get to win gifts and prizes from Marks & Spencer, Robinsons Department Store, and Entrepreneur Magazine. Call 633-7111 local 7416.



Sarap na 'di basta pinulot sa Kangkungan!



Gawing hindi basta-basta ordinaryo ang inyong Kangkong.
Buhusan ng bagong sarap ng Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa.

Kangkong a la Mang Tomas

INGREDIENTS:
1 cup Kangkong leaves
1 tbsp. Garlic, minced
1 tbsp. Onion, chopped
2 tbsp. Yellow bean tausi, drained
1/2 cup lechon meat
1/2 tbsp. Datu Puti Patis
1/2 cup MANG TOMAS ALL-AROUND SARSA
2 tbsp. UFC Golden Fiesta Cooking Oil

PROCEDURE:
1. Saute garlic, onion, and yellow beans in oil.
2. Add lechon meat, Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa and fish sauce.
3. Let boil and cook.
4. Lastly add the kangkong leaves. Simmer to cook.

MANG TOMAS KUSINAbilidad

Gusto ba ninyong magka KUSINAbilidad? Abangan pa ang mga susunod na recipes at siguraduhing laging may Mang Tomas All Around Sarsa sa tahanan ninyo. Dahil with Mang Tomas, may dagdag sarap sa bawat luluin.

MANG TOMAS
All-Around Sarsa

Everything, including the banana

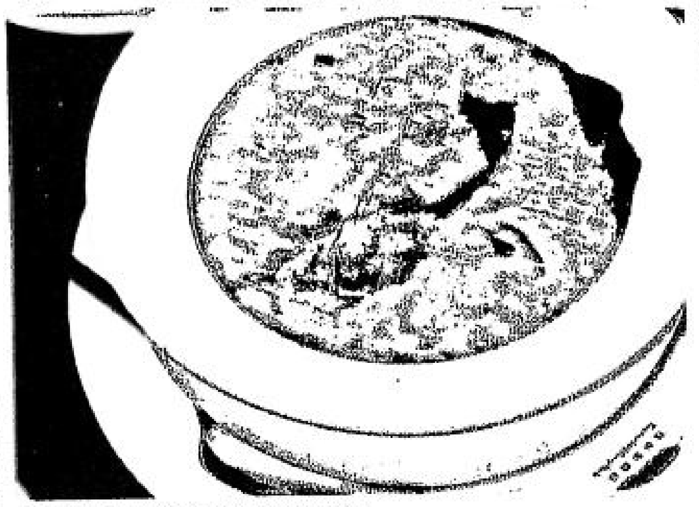
IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

THE banana leaf has pleasant associations for most Asians. It is clean, green and found everywhere. It is put on ironing boards to make irons slide easily, and to impart a subtle fragrance to just-pressed clothes. In markets, it is the all-weather, all-purpose wrapper for meat, fresh fish, vegetables, tiny bashrimps. In kitchens, it lines pans for the baking of *bibingkang malagkit*, and wraps *relyenong bangus*. At picnics, it becomes both tablecloth and plate.

That is what it is at the Banana Leaf Curry House (G/F, the Plaza Building, Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati; tels. 812-8618, 812-1475, fax 812-0932; also at The Podium, 2/L, 18 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong; tels. 687-5896 to -97; fax 687-5898). On pale green paper doilies are laid rectangles of banana leaf, to use as plates. Artificial banana trees bearing bright yellow bananas dot the restaurant landscape, through which scurry male servers in white, and females in printed *sarong-kebaya*, like a flock of flight stewardesses.

The bright yellow menu bears 14 pages of pictures (no lists) of the offerings: breads like *chapatis, murtabak, roti canai*. Appetizers like sticks of *satay* (chicken, beef or pork), vegetable *samosas*, Vietnamese spring rolls, chicken in *pandan* leaves. Soups like Bah Kut Teh (pork spareribs); Spicy and Sour Chicken Soup with Coconut Milk; Sop Ekor Lembu (Malaysian ox-tail soup); Sop Laksa; Tom Yam Kung.



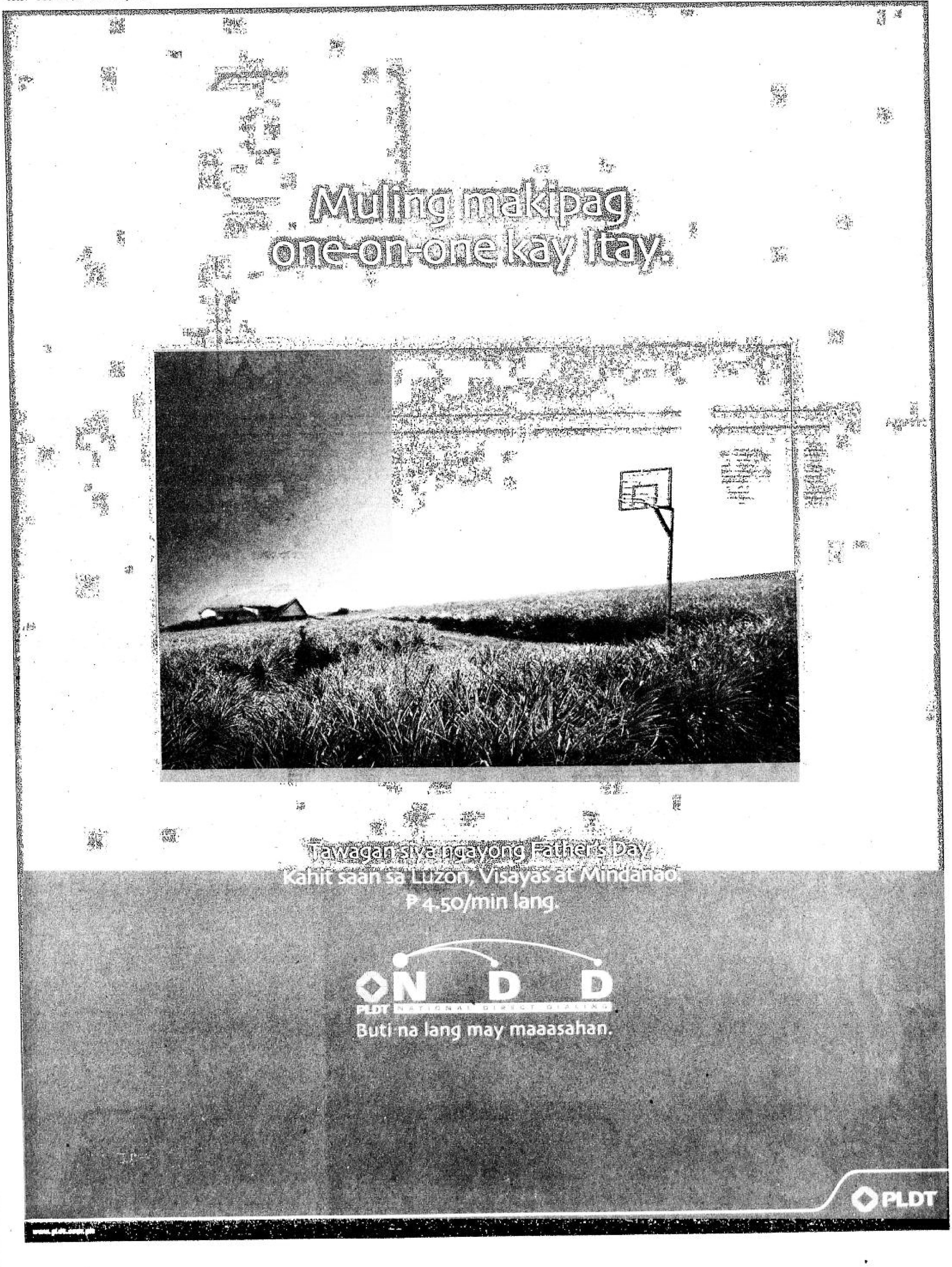
GREEN Curry Chicken, Thai style

SAUTÉED assorted fresh mushrooms with garlic and white wine

You get the idea: the cuisine is generally Southeast Asian—Malaysian, Thai, Vietnamese, Singaporean, with some Indian (Tandoori Chicken), Indonesian (Gado gado) and Chinese. It brought back to me the years spent eating with Wili and his clients and friends, while he did interior design projects in Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, Penang and Kuala Lumpur. The dishes, the tastes, and the pleasures came back, and we swiftly chose favorites, leaving the others for another day.

For me, of course, the internationally-loved Hainanese Chicken and Rice that is a whole ensemble: a tender chicken steamed in water, sesame oil and ginger. The juices (stock) become the soup, as well as the liquid in which the rice is cooked. Accompanied by three classic sauces: ginger, chili, and soya oyster sauce, it is a heaven-born dish, healthy (steamed

EVERYTHING/ p.C3



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MOTORING

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

BACK-TO-SCHOOL PERILS

Schoolchildren vulnerable to road accidents

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Tessa R. Salazar

MORBID or alarmist as this may sound, but it's true that it won't just involve a set of traffic laws or pedestrian crossings to take schoolchildren away from potentially fatal vehicular accidents. About 12.9 million grade-school pupils and 6 million secondary school students, who would troop to school in a few days, need more than our prayers to protect them every day.

Studies have shown that school-age pedestrians are the groups at greatest risk of being involved in accidents. An independent safety expert in the United States cited in the School Bus Information Council that the single greatest risk for children is not violence inside the school building, but how they get to and from school. This can be true in the Philippines as it is in the United States.

Hapless accident victims

Though there is no Philippine data on schoolchildren getting involved in vehicular accidents, many news stories have involved schoolchildren as hapless accident victims. Just this January, an MVP Express plying the Laoag-Pagudpud-Cagayan route killed three schoolchildren and injured 11 others.

A year ago, a student died because his school vehicle, an L300 van plying an unauthorized detour to avoid traffic, collided with a train. The student, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was thrown out of the van and was dragged under the train. School buses had been involved in accidents due to drivers' negligence, and this prompted the Metro Manila Development Authority to order school bus drivers to undergo rigorous training and tests on traffic safety.

3-point seatbelts

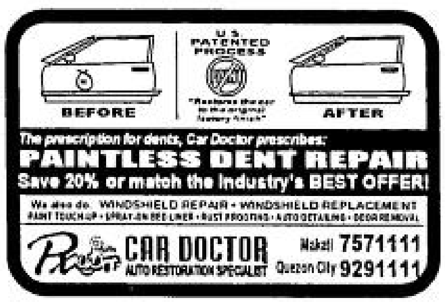
The traffic safety education of the Land Transportation Office is campaigning for the strict use of harness for every passenger in a school bus. The use of seatbelt for each passenger of a school vehicle, said LTO traffic safety education chief Daisy Jacobo, is indicated in the implementing rules and regulations of the Seatbelt Law. Jacobo specified harnesses, or three-point seatbelts, instead of mere lap belts.

"These are special vehicles and the passengers are more vulnerable to accidents, that's why these are included. Part of our campaign is to check school vehicles," she said. The traffic safety education department also stressed that vehicles with children, and even big school buses, should be locked

Common mistakes

Here are some of the common mistakes of adults accompanying or driving children:

- When crossing streets, the adults are more preoccupied with holding and watching the books and bags rather than the child.
- While waiting to cross the road, adults unwittingly set the children near an open canal. These canals are filled with poisonous wastes and can even pose as drowning hazards to children.
- Children are not being advised to avoid manholes and hanging wires of the electric posts.
- Children are not given proper guidance on crossing streets. Children riding bicycles even go against the flow of traffic. Then, their bikes have no reflectors or lights, and they even wear dark clothing.
- Many schools have no designated loading and unloading zones or areas, which should be safely located away from the main roads.
- School buses or vehicles parked anywhere, unmindful of their doors exposed to the highway. Passengers who disembark risk higher chances of being sideswiped.



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Motoring exhibit at Harrison Plaza

THE COUNTRY'S newest motoring event, Motorex, will debut in September at Harrison Plaza in Manila and will feature displays and exhibits on all kinds of motor vehicles whether land, air or sea transport.

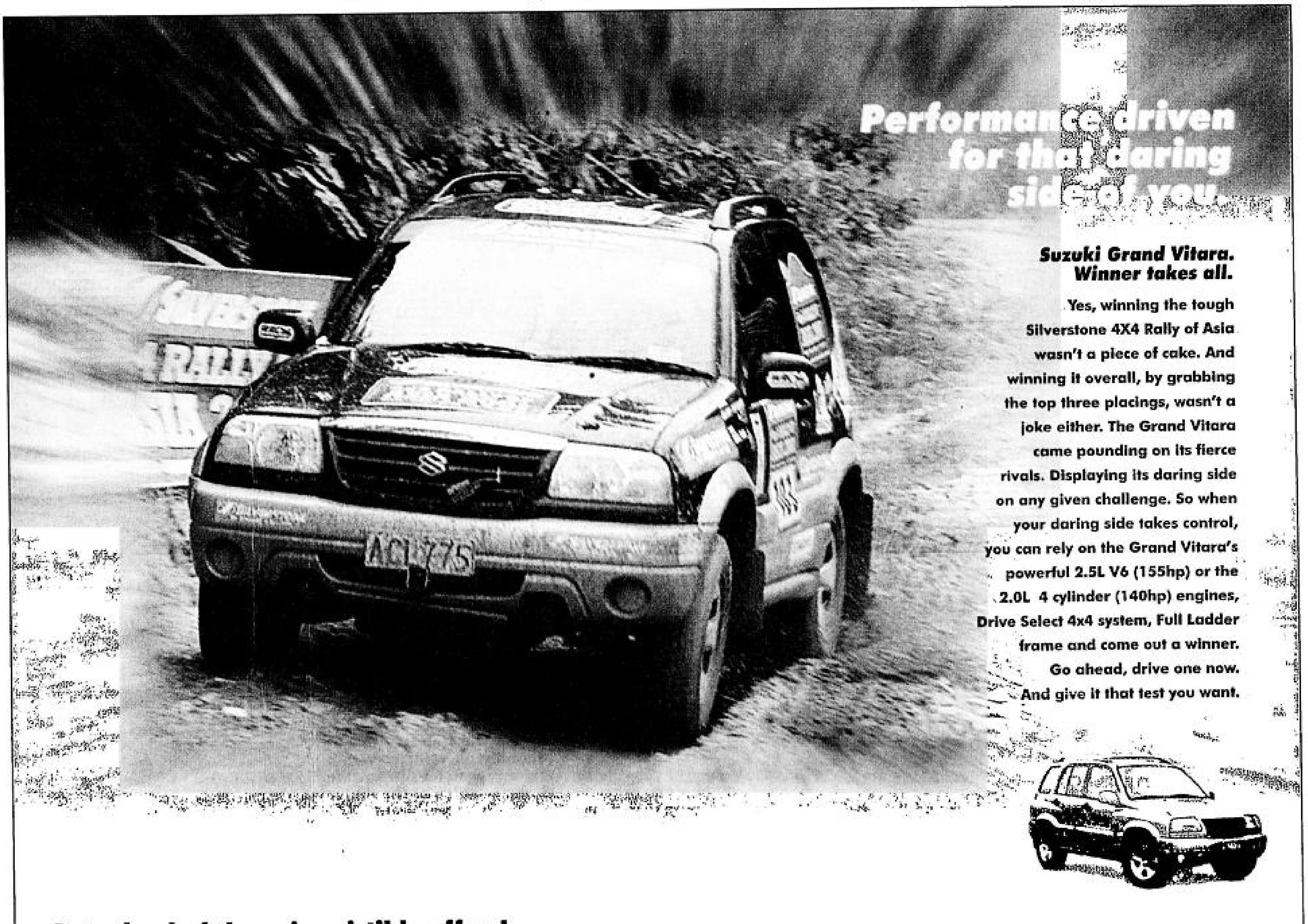
Motorex (for Motor Exhibition) will be held from Sept. 7 to 15 at the new Harrison Plaza Annex and will focus on nontraditional motoring exhibitors such as air cargo handlers, aircraft dealers and distributors, as well as shipbuilders, shipbrokers and freight forwarders.

Conceived and planned by some of the most experienced events organizers in Manila, Motorex aims to bring together under one roof the newest products and innovations in the transport industry for the first time.

The exhibit will also feature new special events that would be of interest to industry players and nonplayers alike but who share the same passion for racing cars, yachts, big bikes, jetski, radio-controlled miniature yachts and the like.

Organizers also hope that Motorex would be able to provide industry players with a wider and more receptive audience by tapping the huge volume of shoppers at Harrison Plaza, which is in the heart of bustling Manila's tourist belt.

Motorex is being organized by Exhibits in Action (Exact) Corp.



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THE ALL-NEW Nissan Cefiro elevates driving comfort far beyond the sedans in its class.

Cefiro returns in all-new form

By Charles E. Buban

IT'S been two years since we last saw an update to the Nissan Cefiro line (a Brougham VIP). Its looks and luxuries captivated the market and eventually became a standard all luxury cars in its class were measured against. Now that standard is about to be raised once again as an all-new Nissan Cefiro finally arrives in the market.

The new Cefiro takes an aggressive facelift adopting styling concept from its European brethren. Anchored by a strong front chrome grille, fluid bodylines and wide horizontal tail lamp treatment, the new Cefiro creates a dramatic impact that distinguishes it from every other car in Nissan's lineup.

Like its earlier lines, the new Cefiro is equipped with advanced amenities and features not commonly found in other sedans in its class. The luxurious Cefiro interior was conceived to blend sophistication and comfort with state-of-the-art ergonomics. A large instrument panel with soft, tactile surfaces houses easy-to-read analogue gauges. Simulated wood trim and leather seat covers add an extra touch of elegance.

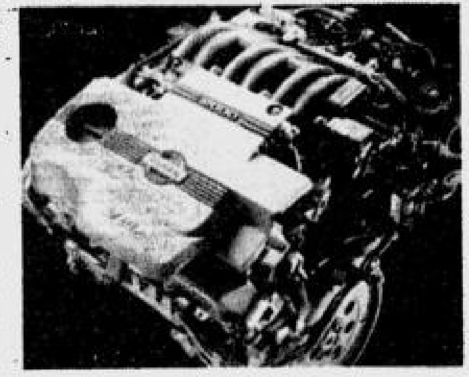
With long wheelbase and wide cabin, the Cefiro offers exceptional interior roominess and a large trunk. The design process got special attention, thus creating the best in its class rear seat spaciousness. Through utilization of a compact rear suspension and high rear roofline and deck, rear passengers are treated to excellent headroom and legroom—even for three-room occupants.

Unrivaled luxury

The new Cefiro is pampered with lots of luxury features like authentic taupe leather material covers for the interior seats, a classic design analogue watch that blends perfectly with the car's modern instrument panels, and a two-way power sunroof (exclusive to the new Cefiro Elite model).

Audio entertainment is provided by a Clarion 1 DIN Full Logic 180 watts audio system with AM/FM, cassette and 6-disc CD changer with pillar-mounted tweeters, and front- and rear-door-mounted speakers. To allow the driver complete control of the audio system's volume, Nissan installed a switch on the steering wheel so he will no longer need to reach the main console while driving.

Exclusive to the new Cefiro Brougham VIP model, Nissan added a roof-mounted LCD screen with a 6-Disc CD/VCD changer for crisp audiovisual entertainment accessible through a rear-armrest audio-video control panel.



THE NEW Cefiro's 24-valve VQ engine is cited as one of the "10 Best Engines" by the prestigious US automotive journal Ward's Auto World.

SITTING behind the wheel of the new Cefiro gives you unprecedented level of luxury and convenience.

Other standard equipment are an automatic temperature control air-conditioning system with non-CFC refrigerant, power windows with driver's side auto-down feature, power door locks with selective unlocking feature, power antenna, power trunk and fuel filler door releases, and cruise control.

Power under the hood

The all-new Nissan Cefiro is not just all looks. Under the hood lies a powerful 2.0-liter VQDE powerplant that represents the latest generation in engine design. Created through advanced computer modeling, the engine produces V8-like response and performance—while its fuel efficiency is equal to that of some four cylinders.

To achieve this feat, Nissan engineers used an all-aluminum engine block to keep engine weight down. Then they increased maximum torque by refining camshaft tuning and increasing the efficiency of the air intake system. A new rotary valve-type variable intake system was employed to help achieve a maximum torque of 19.3kg-m at 4,000 rpm.

To reduce friction throughout the engine, Nissan engineers applied several advanced racing technologies such as micro finishing of the camshaft and crankshaft, molybdenum coating of piston skirts, and the use of smaller piston areas and thinner piston rings.

The new Cefiro employs a new two-stage cooling system design to help prevent engine knock, reduce emissions and improve cold-start characteristics. The use of platinum spark plugs, a chain-camshaft drive (rather than belt) and digital knock control system enhanced durability.

To further reduce vibration and minimize car noise, Nissan engineers used extensive noise dampening material all over the car's body to properly seclude exterior noise. This is achieved by employing softer bushings, springs and shock absorbers, and less use of suspension mounting points, thanks to an improved Multi-Link Beam suspension.

Enhanced safety features

The framework of the new Cefiro is more rigid by 30 percent. This translates to a much improved impact resistance and a more stable ride for its driver. This rigid passenger cage is complemented by front and rear crumple zones, energy absorbing steering column and knee bolsters. Standard safety features include driver's and passenger's side airbags, height-adjustable front seatbelt anchors, Automatic Locking Retractor/Emergency Locking Retractor seatbelts for the front passengers and rear-center seat (apart from the existing two rear 3-point seatbelts), child-safety rear door locks, and active headrests that prevent whiplash injuries.

The new Cefiro also features active safety designs like the Antilock Brake System enhanced with an Electronic Brakeforce Distribution that apportions the force of the rear wheel carrying the greatest mass. It also features 4-wheel disc brakes that provide optimum braking performance, enhanced precision and reliability.

At night, the all new Cefiro's improved Complex Surface Reflector halogen headlamps provide 50 percent better illumination by gathering upward reflected lights while at the same time focusing it downward. The digital rear distance warning system complements the rear backup sensor by providing the driver the necessary distance information when backing up.

Security is further enhanced with the standard remote keyless entry and doors that automatically lock once the car reaches the 25 kph speed. A Nissan antitheft system, together with an advanced engine immobilizer, makes it impossible to start the car without an authentic ignition key.

The new Nissan Cefiro Brougham VIP is priced at P1.68 million while the Elite costs P1.36 million. Both models are available at all Nissan dealerships nationwide.

Japan's hybrid cars

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THE VOLATILITY of oil prices has boosted the market for hybrid cars because of their outstanding fuel economy. Japan sets the pace in hybrid automotive technology, with Toyota becoming the world's first automaker to market a mass-produced hybrid car, the Prius 5-seater 4-door sedan, in December 1997.

Not one to be left behind, Honda Motor Co. Ltd. in September 1999 introduced the Insight, a personal hybrid car that attains gas mileage of 35 kilometers per liter, the world's lowest fuel consumption for a mass-produced gasoline-powered 2-seater vehicle. Last October at the 35th Tokyo Motor Show, Honda displayed the new Civic Hybrid equipped with Honda's new IMA (Integrated Motor Assist) System, a unique hybrid system that achieves for the Civic Hybrid fuel economy of 29.5 km per liter, the highest in the world for a 4-door, 5-seater gasoline-powered mass-produced vehicle.

How do hybrid cars achieve this impressive fuel economy? The hybrid car runs on a flexible combination of gasoline engine and electric motor. The Toyota Hybrid System (THS) in the Prius uses the electric motor to pull away and to drive at low speeds. The engine and the motor are used at normal speeds to optimize fuel efficiency under changing driving conditions. When more power is needed, as in accelerating and uphill driving, the battery helps drive the wheels via the motor. During braking and downhill driving, the electric motor becomes a generator that also recharges the battery, thereby recovering kinetic energy ordinarily lost during braking and thus increasing fuel efficiency. THS achieves great fuel economy in city driving where acceleration and braking are frequent, and also reduces exhaust emissions.

More than 100,000 units of the Toyota Prius have been sold and it is now available in Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia aside from Japan, North America and Europe. In June 2001, Toyota began selling the Estima Hybrid minivan, which is not only the world's first hybrid minivan, but also the world's first hybrid 4-wheel-drive vehicle. The Estima Hybrid has a cruising range of 1,000 km on one tank of gas and reduces hydrocarbon and nitrous oxide levels 75 percent below Japan's latest emission regulations. Last August, Toyota added to its hybrid line the Crown Royal Hybrid, a luxury sedan equipped with the Toyota Mild Hybrid System, a simpler configuration of THS. As of now, both the Estima Hybrid and Crown Royal Hybrid are only available in Japan as right-hand-drive vehicles. But Toyota looks forward to selling about 300,000 hybrid vehicles annually worldwide by 2005.

The Civic Hybrid, which was commercially released in Japan last December, has a state-of-the-art 1.3-liter i-DSI (Dual & Sequential Ignition) engine mated to Honda's Multimatic S continuously variable automatic transmission. The new Honda IMA System found in the Civic Hybrid uses a gasoline engine as its main power source, assisted by an electric motor as the need arises. An improvement over the IMA System used in the Honda Insight, the new motor assist system employs a higher-output, ultra-thin brushless DC motor, a more efficient nickel metal hydride battery and a lighter, more compact Power Control Unit (PCU). The PCU and battery have been integrated into a single Intelligent Power Unit (IPU) that is stored behind the rear seat, thus allowing the two cooling circuits to be combined into one, reducing total volume by around 50 percent and allowing for a low, flat car floor.

The Civic Hybrid incorporates lean-burn combustion technology along with the VTEC Cylinder Cut-Off System and Honda's original G-CON (G-force Control) crash safety design that is among the best in the world, able to withstand a 55 km/h full-frontal collision, a 64 km/h front offset collision, 55 km/h side collision and a 50 km/h rear collision. What's more, the Global Compact Platform packaging of the Civic Hybrid allows high-voltage electronic equipment to be isolated in a single location away from the passenger cabin and this, together with a warning system that detects electrical faults, guards against electrical shocks even in the event of a collision.

Honda's newly developed VTEC Cylinder Cut-Off System adapts VTEC technology to reduce engine friction during deceleration, which was formerly a problem with regenerative braking. It thus increases significantly the amount of electrical energy recovered during deceleration. When stopping at traffic lights, the engine shuts off automatically, then restarts immediately when the driver steps on the gas pedal. This automatic idle-stop system results in greater fuel efficiency and lower emissions. In fact, the Civic Hybrid runs so clean that it is rated as an Ultra Low-Emissions Vehicle (Ulev) by the Japanese Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Drive like hell—you'll get there!

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph

OFFICIAL LAND CARRIER

Ford Philippines is the official land carrier of the 26th National Milo Marathon. Under the contract with the National Milo Marathon, Ford Philippines will be transporting organizers and participants to different destinations of this year's most-awaited running competition. The Milo marathon kicks off in Davao City on July 7. From left are Angelica Umali, Milo brand manager of Nestlé Phils. Inc.; Robert Leal, marketing analyst of Ford Phils.; and Jackby Jaime, Milo sports executive of Nestlé Phils.

Fast lane for renewal of driver's license opens

By Tessa R. Salazar

MINUS the red tape and the fixer, it would now only take 20 minutes to renew your driver's license. Skeptics may be raising their eyebrows, but this is their chance to try it.

Open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. are kiosks in selected malls that will serve as the motorists' "convenience stop" for the renewal of their drivers' license.

The Land Transportation Office announced that it has set up kiosks in various malls in Metro Manila. To be launched on Friday at 11 a.m. is the kiosk at the Farmer's Plaza Cubao (near the MRT terminal). More kiosks will also be set up at the Metropolis in Alabang, Sta. Lucia Grand Mall in Cainta, SM Fairview in Quezon City, Grand Central in Caloocan and Robinsons Place in Ermita, Manila.

Those who have fake drivers' licenses should be wary. There is a scanner that will detect the fakes.

Just bring your previous driver's license, medical exam results and drug test results from accredited drug-testing centers.

Case of the secondhand vehicles; Otaka a poet

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

I HAVE been receiving a lot of queries regarding the continued selling of imported secondhand vehicles in Subic. Most wanted to know if the Subic thing is legal or not.

I made some research and I found out that it is legal. The government allows the importation of secondhand vehicles.

But here's the catch. The vehicles are to be sold only in Subic—and Subic residents are the only qualified buyers of such vehicles.

Alas, this has not been happening. People from all over the archipelago go to Subic to buy the imported secondhand vehicles.

In the beginning, the law only allows dump trucks and 10-seater diesel vans to be imported. Today, other types of vehicles, with diesel engines or otherwise, are being sold (auctioned off?) not only in Subic but also in other parts of Luzon.

Why the government has kept a blind eye on this is beyond me.

* * *

The car companies have been grumbling over this setup. In fact, some of the top brass I've talked to said the law on the importation of secondhand vehicles was a major reason for the terrible slump in sales of the major players in recent years.

Almost by reflex, people tend to buy secondhand vehicles because they come cheap. A Subic buy is almost more than half the price of a brand-new vehicle.

Although the automotive industry registered a marked improvement in sales in the first quarter of the year, the projected target for the remainder of the year is in peril of not being achieved.

What's happening is, each car company is banking heavily on its ability to attract car buyers by introducing unorthodox styles of sales pitches. And, in their bid to stem the tide of surging threats of inactivity, new models have also been churned out amid a gloomy prospect of a radical turnaround in the market.

Gosh, when will the slide end?

* * *

I am glad that I got paired with Kenji Otaka during the 6th Honda Golf Media Classic on Tuesday at the Manila Golf Club.

I discovered a pleasantly stunning other façade in the guy. It's this: Otaka-san is not only a master at making the Honda CR-V a best-seller. He is also a poet.

"I used to do poetry when I was a teenager," said Otaka-san, who plays easily to a 16-handicap on a given day. "And mind you, I did my poetry in English."

No wonder Otaka-san speaks fluent English.

"I did my haiku in English," he said. "I like the rhyme in haiku. And I was very delighted then when I made rhymes in English doing my haiku."

My gratitude goes to TinTin Reyes and Min Magbal for pairing me with Otaka-san. It was a most memorable day—despite my having failed again to win a major prize during the raffle.

"I knew you would enjoy his (Otaka) company," said Arnel Doria. "But, of course, your presence honored us once more. Remember, this tournament was basically your idea."

Thanks Arnel. See you next year.

* * *

Congratulations to Isuzu Philippines Corp. Its Crosswind XUV recently won the nod of the Consumer Union of the Philippines as the best Asian Utility Vehicle (AUV) for the year.

The award should inspire the rest to really aspire for quality.

* * *

Ford Motor Company will hold the June Media Day on June 18. Ford will use the occasion to brief the media on Ford's Centennial year and the launch of the 2nd Henry Ford Awards.

Barring any unforeseen circumstances, I'll be there.

* * *

QUOTE ME. **Before we know it, the wet season is with us. Check those wipers.**

Alabang Town Center holds car exhibit this month

THE BEST auto shops and car clubs will gather to show off their best wheels as Alabang Town Center holds the "Motor Town 2002 ATC Car Show" on June 10-19 at the ATC Activity Center.

The exhibit will feature car care and accessories manufacturers, participating Motor Town dealers and car shops including Copper Blue/QAR, Gen Speed, JB Autohaus, and Pranto Sports.

The event highlights the car competition featuring these categories: Best European Car, Best Japanese Car, Best Engine Display, Best in Paint, Best in Interior, Best in Car Display, People's Choice Award and Best Overall.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Don't overtake on shoulders

By Tessa R. Salazar

THREE weeks ago at 1 p.m. at the South Luzon Expressway, the scorching heat of the midday sun was making motorists and passengers uneasy. People didn't expect to encounter traffic since it wasn't rush hour.

I was driving a decade-old pickup with a weak air con, and I came all the way from the Laguna Industrial Park to visit an automotive plant. The air con of my old pickup was so weak that opening the windows was the only solution. Surprisingly heavy traffic and the sweltering heat made me want to drive on the shoulder, where an open stretch of road lay. I was on the slow lane when I saw a stalled AUV on the shoulder of the highway on my right.

The driver and his passengers were gathered around the open hood of the stalled AUV. All of a sudden, I saw a speeding jeepney on my right rearview mirror shift abruptly to the shoulder. Judging from the speed of the jeepney, I knew something bad was going to happen.

The jeepney wasn't able to stop in time as its driver saw the stalled vehicle too late. The jeepney rear-ended the AUV with such force that the people gathered around the hood were thrown out. Some of them almost rolled to the highway.

My lane was already moving by then, so I didn't get to witness what happened after that grisly first impact.

Overtaking on the shoulder

If the jeepney driver just waited a bit more, he and his passengers would have moved along with us as well. None would have been hurt. No other inconveniences would have added to the already sorry plight of the passengers of the stalled AUV.

Not all drivers overtake on the shoulder, but many do. Drivers justify their overtaking on shoulders by saying this is their way of getting past trucks and dilapidated vehicles lumbering along below the 60-kph limit while not being accosted by traffic enforcers.

This February alone, law enforcers at the North and South Luzon Expressways caught 4,112 motorists overtaking on the shoulder.

You don't have to witness an accident to realize how overtaking on the shoulder is a dangerous game.

Classifying accidents

Though there have been no data yet on the number of shoulder accidents, traffic enforcers along the North and South Expressways and the Skyway said they were classifying accidents under driver error.

Accidents involving driver error numbered 172 in February 2002 for the said areas. About 20 percent of these accidents were due to overtaking on the shoulder. Reckless driving accounts for 119; mechanical trouble, 15; and drivers falling asleep, 3.

Reminders

Here are some driving reminders:

- Security or safety is never convenient. You don't measure safety in terms of your own preference at the moment. If that is the case then we won't have uniform reinforcement. Don't equate safety with convenience. It is a weak alibi in court. It is a lame excuse.
- Plan your trip ahead to make allowances for the underspeeders. The start of the school season may result to a heavier traffic.
- Speed is not always compatible with safety. If traffic is hectic, you don't speed up but slow down.
- When it's your turn to stall, make sure you have your pair of early warning device. The first pair should be positioned one meter away from the front of your vehicle and four to five meters away from the rear of your vehicle.

The law enforcers have posted their emergency numbers. These are (044) 670-1960 for the North Luzon Expressway; (049) 5492116 for the South Luzon Expressway; 838-8714 for the Skyway; and 631-5058 for all three traffic discipline zones.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

TRANSPORT SUMMIT
President Macapagal-Arroyo test-drives a Suzuki tricycle, one of the prizes in the grand draw of the first-ever Toda (Tinig ng Organisadong Drayber sa Pilipinas) summit. Looking on are Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte and National Security adviser Roilo Golez. Suzuki is the popular choice of tricycle drivers in the country. Suzuki Philippines sponsored the transport summit.

All-new CR-V goes mall hopping

AFTER THE SUCCESS of the Philippine Tour around the country's three major islands, Honda Cars Philippines' newest model—the all-new CR-V—goes on another tour, but this time around, within Metro Manila.

The all-new second generation CR-V will be spotted inside metro malls until July 30. Mall shoppers may see up close what this latest best-seller-in-the-making from Honda has to offer.

Latest technology

And the CR-V indeed offers a lot! The all-new CR-V, which boasts of a sharp and bolder front and angular exterior lines, packs in all of Honda's latest technology in safety, comfort, utility and overall performance.

Housed in the new CR-V is the i-VTEC engine that delivers powerful driving performance at 150 horsepower (@ 6,500 rpm) and high torque while at the same time outstanding fuel economy and low exhaust emissions. With the all-new CR-V, Honda combines exhilarating new i-VTEC power and performance as well as serene comfort and driveability of a sedan. Employing Honda's global platform, the all-new CR-V has an increased interior length and height, providing expanded utility.

The all-new CR-V has also achieved the world's highest level of crash safety performance. Its new body is also designed to reduce injuries not only to the driver and passenger but also to pedestrians.

Security

The standard four-wheel disk brake integrates ABS (antilock braking system) for additional security in avoiding accidents, especially when forced to make sudden stops. An added Electronic Brake force Distribution (EBD) compensates for differences in cargo weight load, to provide a good balance of brake response at any time. Likewise, seatbelts with pretensioners and dual-SRS airbags are standard features in the new CR-V.

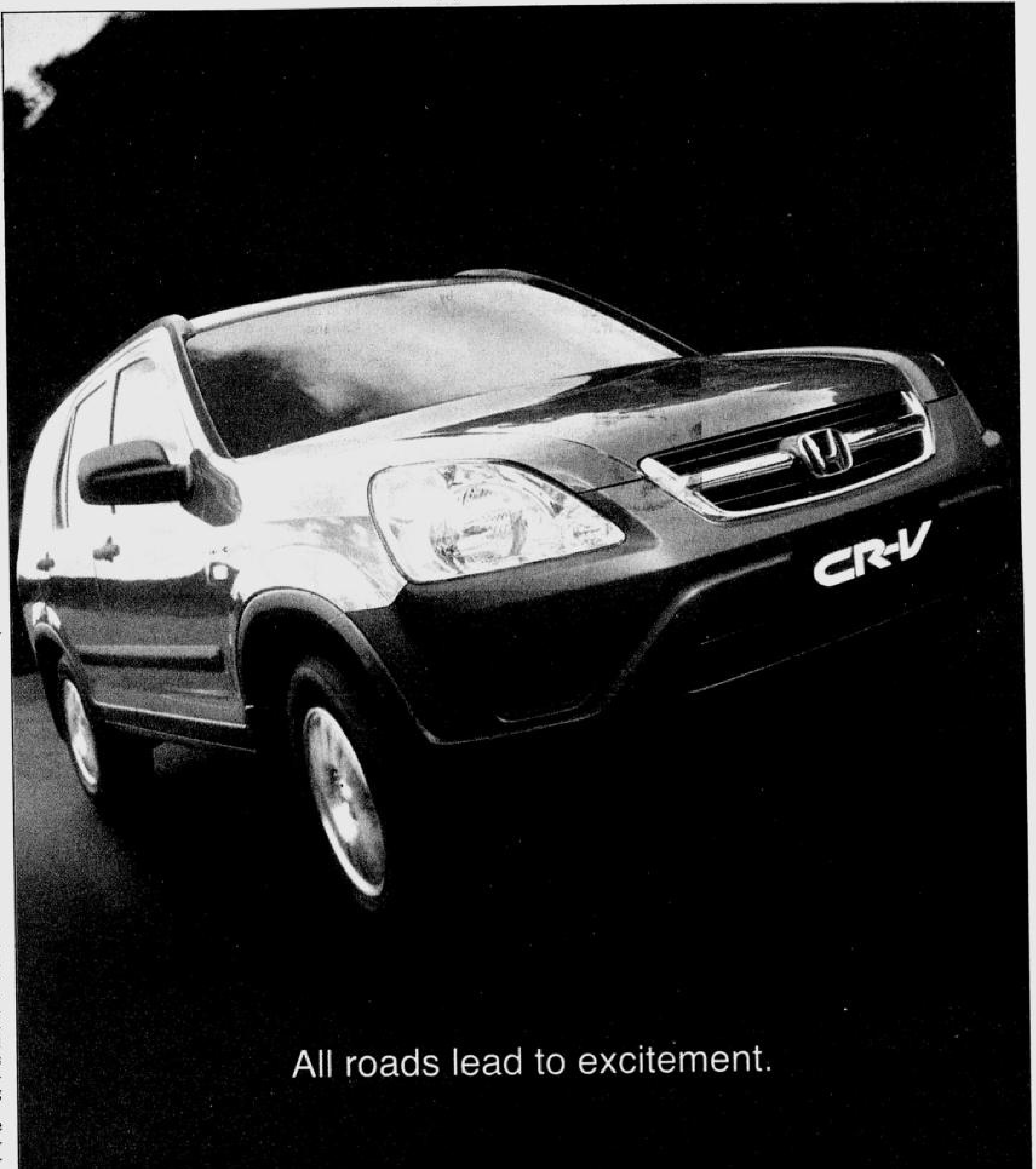
What's more, the new CR-V comes with a 3-year or 100,000-km warranty and provides a reduced maintenance cost through its extended maintenance intervals such as the replacement intervals for the engine oil, A/T fluid, engine coolant, etc.

For further enhanced security for the owner's peace of mind, a new "Wave" key come as standard equipment. The key provides as an antitheft device since it cannot be copied or duplicated.

Mall tour

With all the freedom, comfort and security that the all-new CR-V provides, motoring fun will never be the same again. Catch the all-new CR-V at the following malls:

- Robinsons Place Manila—June 10-16
- SM City North Edsa—June 19-25
- Greenbelt Mall—July 1-5
- Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall—July 10-16
- Robinsons Place Novaliches—July 24-30



Brace yourself for an exhilarating experience with the new Honda CR-V. Now with the breakthrough i-VTEC engine that delivers extraordinary power and outstanding fuel efficiency. Loaded with superior safety features like the Anti-Lock Braking System, Electronic Brake Force Distribution and Dual SRS Airbags for carefree riding pleasure. In demanding circumstances or unfamiliar territory, the new CR-V responds with smooth confidence and effortless drive.

Others promise freedom, but only the CR-V delivers true liberation. Wherever your journey, whatever your goal, all roads lead to excitement.

ALL- NEW
CR-V
Things to see. Places to go.

i-VTEC
DOHC
3 Years Warranty
MAINTENANCE COST CUT IN 1/2
HONDA

Caltex proves Havoline formula best for engine protection

THE NISSAN Exalta Car Marathon culminated last May 5 showing amazing results for the car and the breakthrough technology of Havoline Formula SAE20W-50 API SL and Vortex Gold.

The marathon ran a total of 30,568 kilometers since April 5 to test the compatibility of the Nissan Exalta and Vortex Gold after negotiating the toughest conditions of rough gravel roads, uphill climbs and muddy terrain throughout the country.

Comparison

Caltex Philippines, a ChevronTexaco company, did not sponsor the event just for marketing mileage but also to challenge the breakthrough technology of Havoline Formula SAE20W-50 API SL by comparing the engine cleanliness and wear of cams, bearings and pistons before and after the grueling marathon—just how it proved the efficiency of the CX3 gas and CXT Motor Oil way back in 1991.

While other oil companies claim their product to be the best, Caltex Phils. proved that Vortex Gold with Havoline Formula SAE20W-50 API SL lived up to the challenge. The results of the Nissan Marathon Car test were amazingly beyond expectations.

Big savings

Original studies show that Havoline Formula's upgraded formulation, exceeding API SL requirement, increased the engine's strength against stress as it doubled the change-oil interval from a regular 5,000 km to 10,000 km. This means big savings for the consumer by as much as P500, since they will have to change their oil only once every 10,000-km drive or 6 months.

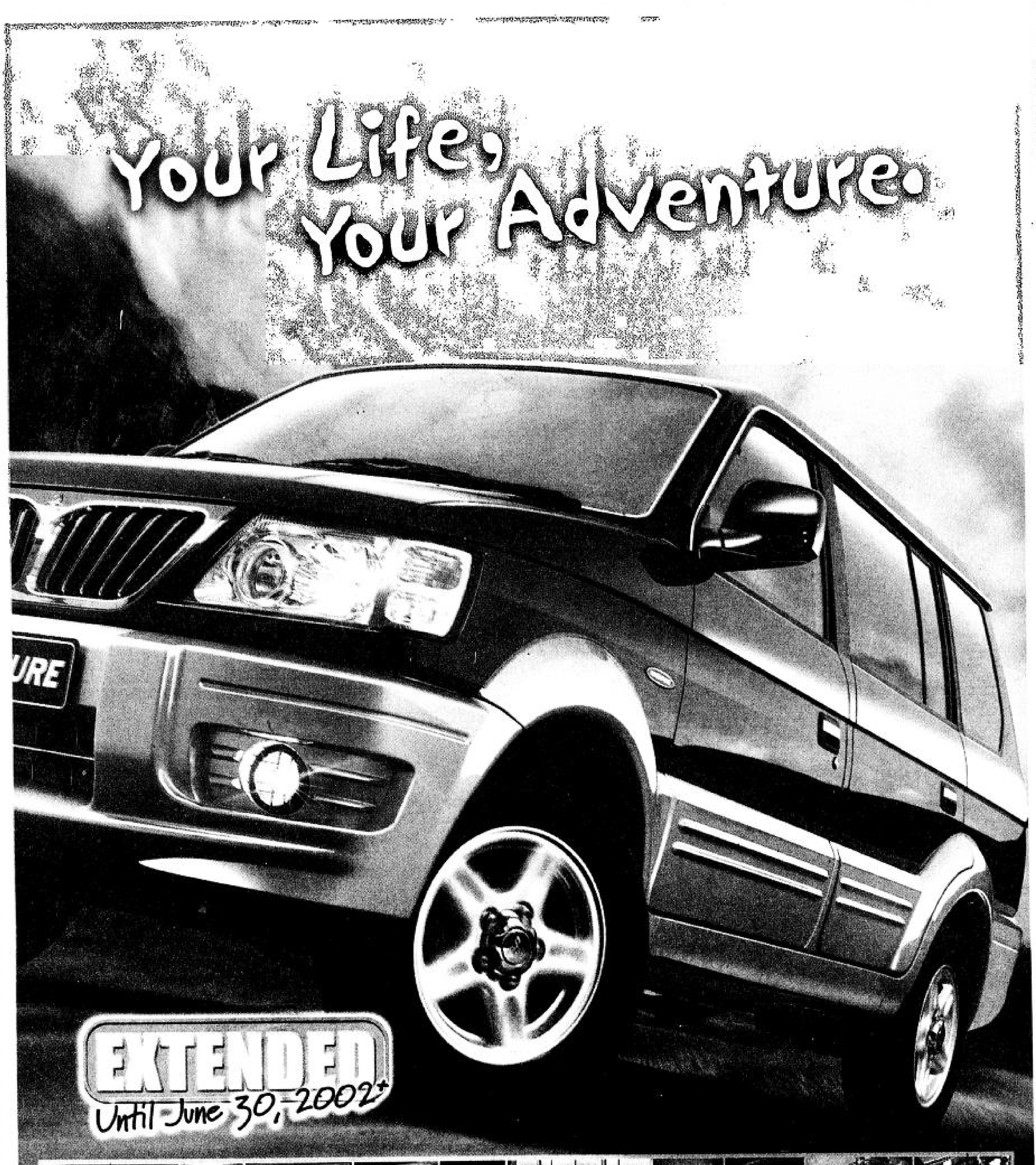
"This test has proven that with the protection of Havoline Formula SAE20W-50 API SL, the engine is protected from wear even at double oil drain interval, and the oil is still suitable for further use," said Paul A. Familara, Caltex product category manager for Havoline Oils and Fuels.

For further use

The engine remained comparatively clean as it was before the Exalta was subjected to the test. Oil color is still light brown and viscosity did not deteriorate.

What's even more amazing was that wear metals seen in the laboratory test of used oil after 30,568 km is still normal, assuring consumers that Havoline Formula SAE20W-50 API SL is still suitable for further use.

This means that the oil is still in working condition after the 10,000-km drive. In every change oil conducted, all oil samples show that wear metals are minimal and still way below the tolerance level. Hard copies of laboratory test results show proof to this fact.



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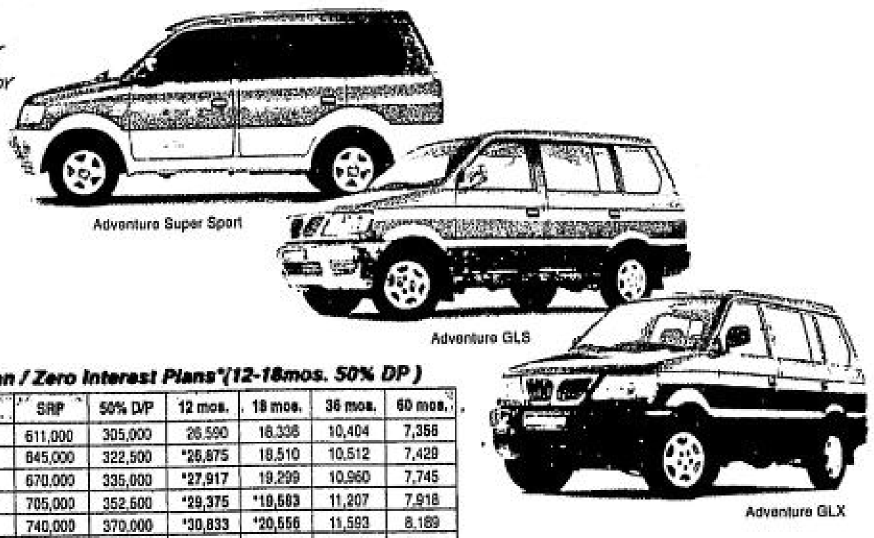

Low D/P Plan

Model	SRP	20% D/P	24 mos.	36 mos.
GL Diesel M/T	611,000	102,200	24,528	17,498
GLX Gas M/T	645,000	99,000	25,893	18,472
Diesel M/T	670,000	90,000	26,896	19,168
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	100,000	28,301	20,190
Gas A/T	740,000	100,000	29,706	21,192
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	100,000	28,903	20,620
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	114,000	30,911	22,051
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	115,000	30,108	21,470
Gas A/T	780,000	123,000	31,713	22,624

**60mos. 50% D/P

Low Monthly Plan / Zero Interest Plans*(12-18mos. 50% DP)

Model	SRP	50% D/P	12 mos.	18 mos.	36 mos.	60 mos.
GL Diesel M/T	611,000	305,000	26,590	18,336	10,404	7,356
GLX Gas M/T	645,000	322,500	*26,875	18,510	10,512	7,429
Diesel M/T	670,000	335,000	*27,917	19,299	10,960	7,745
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	352,500	*29,375	*19,583	11,207	7,918
Gas A/T	740,000	370,000	*30,833	*20,556	11,593	8,189
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	360,000	*30,000	*20,000	11,373	8,034
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	385,000	*32,083	*21,389	12,405	8,766
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	375,000	*31,250	21,516	12,219	8,635
Gas A/T	790,000	395,000	*32,917	22,779	12,935	9,142

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